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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Progress Reported in Talks [Amman Radio] 1
Al-'Aliaf Charges 'Intransigent' Israeli Stand [Damascus Radio] 1
Lebanese Delegation Head Views Peace Talks [Beirut Radio] 2
Shammas Comments Further [Beirut Radio] 2
Arab Delegates To Protest Israeli Actions to Bush [Damascus Radio] 2
No Peace Talks Foreseen for Next Month [Jerusalem Radio] 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt's Musa Wants Iraq in Joint Security Pact [AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 10 Dec] 3
Kuwaiti Minister Discusses Damascus Declaration [MENA] 3

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Ask Bush for Resumption of Dialogue [Algiers VOP] 3
'Abbas: PLO Determined To Pursue Peace Process [London MBC TV] 4
Hamas Spokesman on Kidnapping, Escalation Strategy [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Dec] 4
Hamas Spokesman Urges Arab, Islamic Support [SAWT AL-SHA'B 17 Dec] 5
Israel Bans Palestinians From Travel to Jordan [AL-NAHAR 16 Dec] 5
Gaza Committees Urge Negotiators To Suspend Talks [AL-QUDS 13 Dec] 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Discusses States' 'Crises' [Algiers TV] 6
Investigation Into Boudiaf Assassination Continues [Algiers Radio] 6
Security Forces Destroy 3 'Terrorist' Hideouts [Algiers Radio] 6
UN Failure To Intervene in Bosnia Criticized [Algiers Radio] 6
HSC Member on Security, Ties With France [Algiers Radio] 7

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference on Current Issues [Cairo TV] 7
Musa Urges Israel Not To Deport Palestinians [MENA] 14
'Amr Musa Affirms Support for Lebanon [MENA] 14
'Severe Threats' Exchanged With Sudan Over Hala'ib [London AL-HAYAH 15 Dec] 15
Libya Reportedly Hands Over Terrorist to Authorities [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Dec] 15
Talks on Cooperation With Uzbekistan End 17 Dec 15
Multiple Agreements Signed [MENA] 15
Mubarak Holds Final Session [MENA] 16
Uzbek President Departs Cairo [MENA] 16
Space Channel To Be Broadcast [MENA] 16
Joint Communique Issued [MENA] 16
Mubarak on Visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar [MENA] 16
Greater Arab Coordination With Turkey Urged [AL-AHRAM 12 Dec] 16

Goals of Iranian-Yemeni Cooperation Questioned *[AL SHARQ 11 Dec]* 17
AFP Reports More 'Fundamentalists' Arrested 17
Al-Jizah Security Director on Latest Arrests *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 18
Supreme Constitutional Court To Decide Dispute *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 18
17 Million-Barrel Oil Reserve Discovered *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 18

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects Reportedly To Be Handed Over *[AL-SHIRA' 14 Dec]* 18
Trial May Begin in January *[AL-WAFD 13 Dec]* 18

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies Training of 'Foreign Elements' *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Government Backtracking on Somalia Justified *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Dec]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Russian Defense Ministry Official Pays Visit *[Kuwait TV]* 20
Turkmen President Arrives on Official Visit *[Kuwait Radio]* 20
Holds Talks With Amir *[Kuwait Radio]* 20
Comments on Talks *[Kuwait TV]* 20

Qatar

Turkmenistan's President Arrives in Doha *[WAKH]* 20
Confers With Amir *[WAKH]* 20

Saudi Arabia

Senegalese President Arrives in Jeddah *[Riyadh Radio]* 21
Holds Talks With Faisl *[SPA]* 21

Yemen

'Arafat Arrives, Notes Situation in Territories *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Confers With Council Vice Chairman *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Al-'Attas Message to Presidential Council *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Minister Expects 'Prosperous' Economic Future *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 23

IRAQ

Coup Attempt, Executions of Senior Officers Reported *[Kuwait TV]* 25
Saddam Aide Executed for Soviet, E. German Ties *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 25
SAIRI Claims Imams, Family Executed in Samarrah *[Tehran Radio]* 25
Mujahidin Clash With Regime Forces 22 Nov *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 25
Aziz Says Iraqis Determined To Safeguard Unity *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Syrian's Remarks on Damascus Declaration Viewed *[Baghdad INA]* 26

ISRAEL

Court To Rule on Order To Expel Fundamentalists 27
Cabinet Takes Action *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Court Considers Blocking Deportation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Court Summons More Judges *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Chief of Staff Defends Deportation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Likud To Appeal Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Officials React to Cabinet Deportation Decision 28
Minister Explains Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28

Expulsion Decision Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* ____ 28
Shamir on U.S. Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* ____ 29
Right-, Left-Wing Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* ____ 30
Police Affairs Minister Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* ____ 31
Further on Arrests in Anti-Hamas Campaign *[Jerusalem Radio, etc.]* ____ 32
Defense Establishment Plans 'To Eliminate' Hamas *[HA'ARETZ 17 Dec]* ____ 32
Anti-Hamas Fight Now 'Top Priority' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ____ 33

JORDAN

King Discusses Peace Talks, Somalia With Bush *[Amman Radio]* ____ 34
King Comments on Talks *[Amman Radio]* ____ 34
Dispatch of Jordanian Troops to Somalia Urged *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Dec]* ____ 34
PFLP-General Command's Amman Office Closed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 9-15 Dec]* ____ 34
Communist Party To Sue Ministry Over Recognition *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Dec]* ____ 34
Convicts Covered by Royal Amnesty Released *[AL-RA'Y 12 Dec]* ____ 35
King's Reversion to Language of War Deplored *[London AL-MAJALLAH 9-15 Dec]* ____ 35
Hasan Discusses Problem of Water Resources *[Vienna DER STANDARD 14 Dec]* ____ 36

LEBANON

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Regional Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Dec]* ____ 37
Hizballah on Treaty With Israel, POW's *[Beirut Radio]* ____ 38
Government To Back Continued Syrian Presence *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* ____ 38
Iran Said To 'Return to the Logic of State' *[AL-SAFIR 8 Dec]* ____ 39
Saudi Troop Dispatch to Somalia Criticized *[AL-SAFIR 11 Dec]* ____ 40
Somali Islamic Trends, U.S. Actions Viewed *[AL-SHIRA' 14 Dec]* ____ 41

SYRIA

Khaddam Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* ____ 42
Khaddam: 'Arafat Has 'Lost Most of His Brain' *[Milan IL GIORNALE 14 Dec]* ____ 42
Al-Za'bi Discusses Cooperation With Kuwaiti Envoy *[Damascus TV]* ____ 43
Commentary Views al-Asad Address *[Damascus Radio]* ____ 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Leadership Statement on Transfer of Power *[Kabul Radio]* ____ 45
Defense Ministry Supports Government Statement *[Kabul Radio]* ____ 45
Council Representatives Hold News Conference *[Kabul Radio]* ____ 45

India

Reaction to Dismissal of 3 BJP Governments ____ 46
Rao Defends Move *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 46
Other React *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 46
BJP Urges Government Resignation *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 46
BJP No-Confidence Motion Considered *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 47
Rajya Sabha Adjourned *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 47
Parliament Condemns Destruction of Mosque *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 47
Commission Set Up To Investigate Ayodhya Incidents *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 47
Delhi: U.S. Warns Pakistan, Bangladesh on Ayodhya *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 48
Minister Charges Pakistan With 'State Terrorism' *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 48
Finance Ministry: Talks With IMF Satisfactory *[Delhi Radio]* ____ 48

Iran

Pakistani Defense Minister Continues Visit *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 48
Need To Rebuild Babri Mosque Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* ____ 48

Economic Agreements Reached With Azerbaijan *[IRNA]* 49
Gulnia Energy Minister Visits Tehran 49
Mentu Oil Minister, Velayati *[IRNA]* 49
Mentu Vice President *[Tehran Radio]* 49
UNHCR Supervises Return of Afghan Refugees *[IRNA]* 49
Commentary Views Killing of Israeli Soldier *[Tehran International]* 50
Commentary on Turkish Decision on Petrol Shortage *[Tehran International]* 51
Need To Counter Western 'Cultural Invasion' Seen *[TEHRAN TIMES 30 Dec]* 52
MKO Issues Statement on Arrest of 'Terrorists' *[Voice of Mujahid]* 52
Khamenei's on Role of Women in Islamic Society *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Industries Minister on Domestic Production *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Importance of Population Control Noted *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Dec]* 55

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Not To Resign After Court Ruling *[AFP]* 56
Protest at U.S. Embassy; Policemen Efflgy Burned *[AFP]* 57
Bhutanese Refugee Situation Termed 'Serious' *[AFP]* 57
Investment Forum Concludes; 115 Projects Signed *[AFP]* 57
Germany Pledges Technical, Economic Grants *[AFP]* 58

Pakistan

Sharif Comments on Ties With Japan, U.S. *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Foreign Secretary on Terrorism, U.S. Ties *[THE MUSLIM 16 Dec]* 58
Indian Personnel Declared Persona Non Grata *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Protest Lodged With India on Killing of Fishermen *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Progress Reported in Talks

JN1712100792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The eighth round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks will end in Washington today. Moreover, U.S. President George Bush will meet with the heads of delegations taking part in the negotiations. These delegations last night held the penultimate session in this round without any signs of noteworthy progress.

Sources close to the delegations taking part in the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations said that today's sessions will be the shortest sessions since the start of this round and will be followed by separate meetings between each chief delegate and U.S. President George Bush.

In a report from Washington, the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY said that President Bush's meeting with participating delegations will take the form of separate 20-minute meetings with each delegation. The U.S. administration requested that the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations attend this meeting as one delegation without giving the Jordanian or the Palestinian delegation the right to meet separately with the U.S. president. However, both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations insist on meeting separately with the U.S. president.

The negotiating delegations last night held the penultimate session in this round, except for the Lebanese and Israeli delegations, which agreed that last night's session would be the last. The negotiators noted no substantial progress in this round. However, they all affirmed their commitment to continuing the talks.

Reports said that negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track focused, in particular, on water and environment issues.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track, Israeli delegation spokesman Yosi Gal said that the Israelis adhered to their proposals dealing with a five-year transitional period of self-rule. The Palestinian side rejected this proposal last month in light of the Israeli determination to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in the future. Moreover, the Israeli proposals stipulate that proposed liaison committees should include Israeli officials who will have a say in every decision made in the occupied territories.

On the Syrian-Israeli track, statements did not refer to any progress regarding the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Following the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that the Israeli side continues to reject commitment toward implementing the substantive bases of the peace process.

The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations also ended without any noteworthy results. Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, expressed his disappointment following the last meeting. He said that all his efforts failed to obtain a declaration from the Israelis about the political aims of their security proposals dealing with southern Lebanon.

The date of the next round of talks has not so far been discussed. However, reports coming from Washington indicate that the next round will not be held before the beginning of next February; that is, after President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on 20 January 1993.

Al-'Allaf Charges 'Intransigent' Israeli Stand

JN1712080692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, said discussions in today's meeting, the one before the last in this round, were worthless, thus indicating that this eighth round will end the same way as the previous seven rounds.

Following today's meeting, al-'Allaf said: The results of this round appear similar to those of the seventh and other previous rounds. This is a cause for concern. The Israeli side continues to refuse to show commitment to implementing the substantial principles required by the peace process. It also refuses to abide by complete withdrawal from the territories Israel occupied in 1967 and insists on matters not included in the peace process and which cannot be discussed before Israel complies fully by what is demanded of it by this process.

Al-'Allaf asserted that the intransigent Israeli position is pushing the peace talks into an impasse and prevents any progress.

Al-'Allaf said: Israel's refusal to abide by the requirements of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the peace process is based, and its insistence on raising issues which cannot be discussed before the establishment of peace and which do not constitute a precondition for peace, is a serious matter indeed.

Al-'Allaf said: We are here to implement, in the best way possible, Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

He added: Throughout this round of talks, we have not seen any indication from the Israeli side that they are prepared to accept the obligations dictated by the resolutions on which the peace process is based.

Al-'Allaf said: At one point in today's meeting, the Israelis acknowledged that the ideas they presented yesterday were useless and asked that they be ignored. They also asked us to return to the amendments document they submitted earlier in this round.

Al-'Allaf added: There is only one difference between the latest Israeli ideas and the previous ones. The latest ideas are even more negative than the previous ones.

Asked about what he expects to be raised during tomorrow's meeting with President George Bush, al-'Allaf said: As well as expressing great disappointment, he will be asked to do what he can—if there is enough time to do so, or to leave a message or a recommendation to his successor, President-elect Bill Clinton—to prevent any stoppage or stagnation in this process because of the Israeli position.

Al-'Allaf pointed out that the meeting with President Bush will in itself be very significant, but the burden of exerting efforts to rescue the peace process from the impasse it reached because of Israeli intransigence will have to be shouldered by the new administration when it assumes office on 20 January.

Asked if a date has been set for the next round of talks, al-'Allaf said the date will be decided after consultations between the parties concerned and the cosponsors, although there are indications that that round will convene after the new U.S. Administration assumes office on 20 January.

Tomorrow's final meeting in this round is expected to be brief, and will be preceded by the scheduled meeting with President Bush.

Lebanese Delegation Head Views Peace Talks

NC1612081892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The eighth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations will conclude in Washington tomorrow. There is a chance of holding a ninth round of talks next month. In yesterday's round no progress was made on any of the Arab-Israeli tracks.

The Lebanese and Israeli delegations exchanged accusations on responsibility for the failure of negotiations. Subayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that when the Israelis recognize that they occupy part of Lebanon and not vice versa, then perhaps it will become possible to begin a serious and constructive dialogue. He noted that Israel wants us to feel as if we occupy it. He said that the Lebanese delegation told the Israelis, as it did before, that what is required first and foremost is defining the political framework through which proposals can be assessed. He said that Lebanon is prepared to discuss this definition any time the Israelis want, adding we called on them to do so.

Shammas pointed out that the Israelis said: a pessimistic review of the past 55 sessions. He said that the Lebanese delegation also reviewed these sessions but reached a different conclusion from the Israelis. The Israelis, he said, want us to feel as if we are the country that is occupying Israel. The fact is that they occupy Lebanon and when they recognize this perhaps we can begin a constructive and serious dialogue. Meanwhile, we will continue to exert efforts and we are determined to achieve peace.

Shammas Comments Further

NC1712073492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The eighth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations will wind up today. The Lebanese-Israeli round of talks ended yesterday.

Ambassador Subayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said: We have agreed not to hold a session today. We look forward to holding a ninth round of negotiations some time in future. I cannot tell you when this will be.

Ambassador Shammas voiced his disappointment over the negotiations of the 56th session with the Israelis yesterday. He said: We failed to convince them to define the political framework required for discussing security problems. Shammas asked what the objectives are in discussing the security problems. He expressed the hope that the Israelis will bring new ideas to the next round so that we will be able to resolve the real problems that remain points of dispute between us, Shammas added.

Ambassador Shammas reiterated his call for the Israelis to define the political framework of the negotiations, particularly since we have briefed the Israelis on our views concerning the peace process. When this process achieves fruitful results, the necessary tools will be achieved, he added. He said: The Israelis are aware of this and we know the ultimate goals of the Madrid conference, but these goals must pass through initial and intermediary stages before the final noble goal is achieved.

Arab Delegates To Protest Israeli Actions to Bush

JN1712091892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Washington—At their coordination meeting last night, the heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks decided to express to President George Bush during a meeting with him later today their strong protest and utmost concern over Israel's decision to deport 400 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories. The heads of the Arab delegations have also decided to confine today's final meeting of the current eighth round of talks to informing the Israeli side of their denunciation and condemnation of this decision, and to end the meeting thereafter as a sign of protest.

Following the meeting, held at the Syrian delegation's headquarters, head of the Syrian delegation Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, said that most of the meeting was devoted to discussing the serious reports on Israel's intention to deport a large number of Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories, something that violates all the principles of international law and human norms. Al-'Allaf added that the heads of the Arab delegations had decided to inform U.S. President George Bush during a meeting later today of their strong protest and utmost

concern over the Israeli decision and to ask the American sponsor of the conference to exert speedy efforts to prevent Israel from going ahead with this act, which would jeopardize the entire peace process.

Al-'Allaf said: We in the Syrian track of the talks reject all the Israeli proposals which continue to deal in a confused and ambiguous way with the issue of withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. We also reject Israel's proposals concerning the comprehensive nature of peace. We believe that the peace should include all the fronts of the Arab-Israeli fronts.

Asked about meeting held by the Swiss ambassador, Mr. Brunner, with the heads of Arab delegations yesterday, in his capacity as the representative of the UN secretary general, (i-'Allaf said: The heads of the Arab delegations informed Mr. Brunner of the progress of the peace process and exchanged useful ideas with him. Agreement was reached to continue contacts in an attempt to promote the peace process, which is primarily based on UN resolutions.

After the coordination meeting, head of the Palestinian delegation Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi described the Israeli deportation decision as counter to international law and to human rights and principles. He voiced the Palestinian delegation's protest against and denunciation of the Israeli decision and said that if Israel carries out its deportation decision, the Palestinian delegation will take the appropriate stand to face it.

No Peace Talks Foreseen for Next Month

TA1612191192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Israel will not initiate another round of peace talks next month. A senior political source estimates that talks will not be held next month. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Israel is willing to have the body heading the autonomy named the self-government council, provided that it be an executive body rather than a legislative one.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt's Musa Wants Iraq in Joint Security Pact

JN1312164092 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 25

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that he discussed with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, preparing a new formula for pan-Arab security in accordance with a proposal presented by Egypt to the league's council during its recent session in September.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I, 'Amr Musa said the league will complete preparations for a preliminary working paper, relying on the expertise of specialists in this field, in preludie to a mini-conference of a number of Arab foreign ministers next March to discuss the paper before presenting it for general discussion at the Ministerial Council next September.

'Amr Musa said that all Arab countries will participate in discussing the proposed formula for pan-Arab security, including Iraq "because we want Iraq to be part of the Arab political and security fabric, especially since it is impossible to bring together the Gulf states and the current Iraqi regime alone because Iraq is currently threatening its neighbors."

He pointed out that pan-Arab security should be restricted to Arab countries, without bringing in any non-Arab parties.

Kuwaiti Minister Discusses Damascus Declaration

NC1713005492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Dec (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated the concern and commitment of his country, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to the Damascus Declaration.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said the Damascus Declaration will be among the topics discussed by the GCC summit in Abu Dhabi.

He stressed that the Damascus Declaration will continue and that the GCC countries are committed to it. He said this is not flattery as much as an obligation to a declaration agreed and signed by these countries.

He said he hoped Qatar will attend the Gulf summit conference and that the GCC leaders will be up to their responsibility and achieve their peoples' aspirations.

Shaykh Sabah said the Abu Dhabi GCC summit will adopt a view completely different from that of previous meetings.

Shaykh Sabah will leave for Abu Dhabi tomorrow, Friday, to attend the 2-day GCC foreign ministers meetings ahead of the summit due to begin on Monday.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Ask Bush for Resumption of Dialogue

LD1612201192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] An informed Palestinian source has announced that during its scheduled meeting tomorrow, Thursday, with U.S. President George Bush, the Palestinian delegation to peace talks will reaffirm a number of essential issues, foremost among them being an appeal to

the United States to adopt a clear stance vis-a-vis the peace process which was established on the basis of land for peace.

In a statement to the Tunisian ASSABAH, the source said that during tomorrow's meeting the Palestinian delegation will reaffirm the unity and representation of the Palestinian people, and will reaffirm that the transitional period must include Palestinian control over the territories occupied in 1967, foremost among them being Jerusalem.

He stressed that during tomorrow's meeting, the Palestinian delegation will stress the need for the resumption of direct dialogue between the United States and the PLO, in view of its status as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The delegation will urge Washington to put pressure on Israel to hold direct talks with the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Abbas: PLO Determined To Pursue Peace Process

NC1612204192 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Amid the current developments in the occupied territories and the difficulties facing the Washington peace talks, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Arab countries to convene an emergency foreign ministers meeting to discuss why the negotiations are not making any progress. For this reason, we telephoned PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, in Tunis and asked him first about the PLO's position vis-a-vis current events in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He had this to say:

[Begin recording] ['Abbas] Undoubtedly, the Israeli Government is carrying out provocative and annoying acts in response to the Palestinian people's struggle and the escalation of the intifadah. The intifadah is a legitimate right of the Palestinian people, or rather one of their legitimate means of struggle. Undoubtedly, we maintain that such Israeli behavior will not at all help attain our objectives and the achievement of peace. We feel—I will not say anxiety—but indeed more than anxiety as a result of Israel's acts. Israel must know that such oppressions will necessarily continue because their cause, that is, the occupation, is still there.

[Anchorman Antoine 'Awn] Abu-Mazin, while these developments are taking place, the negotiations in Washington have reached a crisis. How do you, in the PLO, confront this situation? What is the fate of the negotiations?

['Abbas] Your description of the negotiations as being in a crisis is correct. They have not reached a deadlock. This means that the negotiations are passing through an arduous stage due to contradictions among the concerned parties, particularly the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Israelis continue to insist on many concepts that were adopted when the Shamir government was in power. They have not been developed at the negotiations table in line with statements made by Israeli Labor Party leaders during the elections campaign and after. Still, this does not mean that we will quit the negotiations. We will pursue them to prove to the world that we want peace and are determined to pursue the peace process. [end recording]

Hamas Spokesman on Kidnapping, Escalation Strategy

PM1712085692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Salih report: "Israel Declares War on Hamas"]

[Excerpts] London—Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Jordan, has blamed the Israeli Government for the death of the kidnapped Israeli officer. Nazzal, in a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in Amman, said that "the Israeli authorities were not serious in tackling the case of the sergeant major. They resorted to procrastination and the pretext that there was no evidence that he was still alive although the Hamas leadership had proposed the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin to the International Red Cross in return for the release of the captured Israeli officer."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday evening declared what he described as "an all-out war" on Hamas. [passage omitted]

On the reasons that prompted Hamas to kill the captured sergeant major despite the fact that Shaykh Yasin, appearing on Israeli television, asked them not to, Nazzal said that "the first deadline expired at 2100 on Sunday but the Israeli authorities did not respond to the request for the release of Shaykh Yasin." He added "I believe that those responsible for the kidnapping perhaps felt that the Israeli authorities might be able to find the captive, and so they killed him."

Nazzal added that "on the other hand, the Israeli occupation authorities launched a large-scale arrest campaign in the ranks of Hamas members and supporters in the occupied territory with the aim of gathering information and putting pressure on them to find out where the captive was being held."

Nazzal confirms Hamas' military escalation strategy. He said that "the escalation continues regardless of developments and Hamas will continue to pursue this same policy."

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said "this shows that the only way to end the violence is peace." He was answering an AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT question addressed to him by telephone during his visit to Paris yesterday about the PLO's position regarding Hamas' kidnapping and killing of Israeli Sergeant Major Tabenkin.

Abu-Sharif said that "the road to peace is clear and peace cannot be achieved unless the legitimate UN resolutions are implemented. The Israeli Government knows that violence breeds violence and is bound to produce violent reactions, and that occupation is bound to breed resistance."

Hamas Spokesman Urges Arab, Islamic Support

JN1712112992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Dec 93 pp 1, 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement in Amman, has said that the Israeli soldier was not kidnapped and killed in order to improve the stand of the Palestinian negotiator. He noted that Hamas denounces the negotiations and announces to the world that dialogue with the Israeli enemy can only be held through the barrel of a gun.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said that the recent operation by Hamas was aimed at breaking the arrogance of the Israeli occupation in front of world, Arab, and Palestinian public opinion and at proving that occupation troops can be pursued and killed.

Ghawshah added that Arab and Islamic action can weaken the occupation and achieve results that touch the heart of the historic struggle against this occupation.

The Hamas official spokesman said that Rabin's statements to the Israeli Knesset that Zionism will remain in Palestine forever and ever was a message to the Arab and Islamic nation and to the negotiating delegations in Washington.

He said that the kidnapping and killing of the Israeli soldier has struck at the heart of and deeply shaken the Zionist entity.

Ghawshah held Rabin responsible for the killing of the soldier because the al-Qassam battalions had given Israel two choices. Israel, however, tried to waste time with the aim of finding the kidnappers.

He said: The arrest campaign launched by the Israeli occupation authorities in which the number of detainees reached 1,200 Palestinians from all walks of life will not prevent us from continuing the struggle against the Nazi-like occupation.

Ghawshah called on Arabs and Muslims to provide media, political, and material support for a united stand against what is threatening the Palestinians in the land from which the prophet ascended to heaven [Jerusalem].

He called on sincere leaders to mete out justice to the Palestinian people with all the means at their disposal, urging Arab and Islamic movements and parties to raise their voices, voice their opinions, and stand by the Palestinian people and their struggling vanguards.

He added that current events in the occupied territories represent a war of siege, starvation, and subjugation supported by the entire Zionist camp—left, right, and center—and confirm the Jewish adherence to the land of Palestine.

Ghawshah asked: What is the Arab and Islamic nation waiting for while the Zionists are currently launching attacks from the same position and are threatening, arresting, and oppressing the people who are defending their nation from the first trench.

Israel Bans Palestinians From Travel to Jordan

TA1612173892 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Effective this morning, the Israeli authorities have banned residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from traveling to Jordan over the Damiya and Allenby Bridges. It is worth noting that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are subjected to a security siege and curfew.

Gaza Committees Urge Negotiators To Suspend Talks

TA1512172792 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Dec 93 p 3

[Special to AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—The political committees in the Gaza Strip issued a press statement yesterday in which they condemned the continuation of Israel's escalating policy toward the residents at a time when the Palestinian delegation is negotiating for the establishment of peace.

The political committees called on the Palestinian negotiating delegation to suspend the eighth round of negotiations until the Israeli authorities cease their policy.

In their statement, the political committees appealed to the UN secretary general to convene a Security Council meeting to discuss the violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

Algeria

Prime Minister Discusses States' 'Crises'

LD1612202992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] This morning Prime Minister Abdesselam Belaid headed for the Police College at Hydra, accompanied by Minister of Interior and Local Communities Mohamed Hardi and Minister Delegate for Public Security Mohamed Teliba. [passage omitted]

Then the prime minister delivered a speech before the cadres of the security apparatus at the national level in which he praised the great efforts and sacrifices made by the security forces. The government fully realizes the value of these sacrifices and is intent on taking all necessary measures to strengthen the security forces so as to contribute to the comfort of the citizen, thereby combating terrorism and taking the country out of the current situation by harmonizing all efforts.

The government, Belaid Abdesselam said, has taken several measures in relation to the families of the security men who fell victim to terrorism, and it is exerting every effort to assist the security forces cadres in solving their social problems. [passage omitted]

The prime minister also dealt in his speech with the situation in the country which is manifested in two crises: a political one and a socio-economic crisis.

[Begin Abdesselam recording] We must concentrate our action on combating the elements that are trying today to destroy the state, and at the same time we must embark on a policy of restoring hope to people—restoring hope to people so that they may rebuild their state. We now face two crises. First, there is a political crisis that has developed to the extent that it threatens the existence of the state, the nation, and society. Second, we are facing an economic crisis leading to a social crisis, a socio-economic crisis. At this moment our choice is to give precedence to the political crisis, to try to normalize matters in the political field, to try to remove all causes of explosion among Algerian citizens, and to try to reassure people and restore hope to them. We will not take measures in the economic field and the social field that are liable to assist the actions of people who are against the state. [end recording]

Investigation Into Boudiaf Assassination Continues

LD1212151292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The national committee in charge of the investigation into the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf has given the national press a detailed report on its findings. The report was full of information and observations. More details with Mouassaad Boukherouat [Boukheyrouat]:One of the main observations that must be noted is the fact that the investigation into the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf has not ended officially. The report has been sent to the judiciary, so that it may continue its investigation into the assassination of the late Mohamed Boudiaf. The committee pointed out in its report that it is not replacing the security services, nor does it have the power to pass a legal judgement on findings or issue an indictment. Hence, the report is not complete; the investigations should continue. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Destroy 3 'Terrorist' Hideouts

LD1612233092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] We have learned from the National Gendarmerie Command in the province of Ain Defla that during a combing operation the security forces discovered three terrorist hideouts in a mountain situated between Tipaza and Ain Defla. The three hideouts, which according to the same source were being used as places of rest by armed groups, have been destroyed.

We have also learned from the National Gendarmerie in the province of Batna that a clash took place between a National Gendarmerie patrol and a group of terrorists in Mount Mecharaa, situated in the municipality of Ouled El Ma [northwest of Batna]. The terrorist group managed to escape because of the dense woods covering the area.

In the province of Bouira 21 people appeared today before the examining magistrate at the court of Lakhdaria. They were all charged with harming the security of the state, possessing weapons, and forming and belonging to terrorist groups. Two other people have also appeared before the examining magistrate in the province of El Oued. They were charged with possessing and printing leaflets and also with possessing inflammatory tapes.

UN Failure To Intervene in Bosnia Criticized

LD1212095492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Despite the Serbs' persistence with their established war of annihilation against the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia, the UN Security Council has not permitted any military intervention in the former Yugoslavia, in contrast to its action in the case of Somalia. However, the Security Council decided yesterday to permit intervention, not in Bosnia, but in Macedonia. For more details, here is our colleague.

The UN Security Council yesterday unanimously approved what it called a protective resolution—Resolution 795, which permits military intervention in Macedonia to prevent any widening of the conflicts in

Yugoslavia. The intervention will be carried out by a force of 700 men, 35 UN military observers, and 26 civilian policemen.

This is the first operation of its kind. The deployment of the force was approved on the recommendation of UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali. It aims at preventing the spread of the Yugoslav conflict into Macedonia, a former republic of the defunct Yugoslavia which is witnessing a ferocious war, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Despite the established fact that the Serbs have been waging a war of annihilation against the Muslims in Bosnia, the UN Security Council has failed to approve of military interventions there. Calls for UN intervention are still continuing, however.

The Croatian president sent a message to Butros-Ghali yesterday, calling for speedy intervention like that undertaken in the cases of the Gulf war and Somalia. He added that 600 Croatian civilians have been killed by the Serbs in the areas that have been under observation by the blue berets for 18 months.

IHC Member on Security, Ties With France

LD1112111192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Conditions in Algeria are less dangerous now than they were a year ago—we used to be on the brink of civil war every Friday. So said Ali Haroun, member of the Higher State Council [HSC], assessing the security situation in an interview with the French newspaper LA CROIX-L'EVENEMENT. He pointed out that since the authorities' appeal to the citizens, about 100 terrorists have given themselves up.

He said that the army considers the civilian authority to be responsible for managing the crisis, and that it is fortunate for Algeria that it has a united army that is working toward the same goals.

Regarding Algerian-French relations, Haroun expressed his surprise at the French authorities' reservations on the political situation in Algeria. He noted the surprising French delay both in receiving the credentials of the new Algerian ambassador and in arranging the visit to Algeria, already announced, by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the date of which has not yet been decided.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference on Current Issues

NC1612202592 Cairo EIC Television in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Dec 92

[News conference by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with Arab and international correspondents, in Cairo on 16 December—recorded; passages in boldface in English]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Despite the fact that terrorist acts are not restricted to Egypt alone—they take place in many countries, including England, France, and Germany, including rape and political terrorism—more concentration is placed on events in Egypt. Has this damaged tourism?

[Mubarak] Undoubtedly, events in Egypt are not as numerous as they are made out to be in the Western media. I do not know why they continuously concentrate on events in Egypt. Even minor incidents are presented in Western media in a much exaggerated manner. Once I was abroad and read in the Western press about a small incident here. So I asked what it was all about. I found out that the issue was very minor. I said such and such was written about it. I was told that this was not right. We have some incidents here, but incidents throughout the world are doubled compared to ours. The United States is full of them. The United Kingdom suffers from bombs and problems in underground stations. They have incidents like that on an average of twice a week. France also suffers from such incidents, Germany, Italy, even the Arab countries. They like to concentrate on Egypt for some reason. I see no reason for that. We are not afraid of this; everything is under control.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has it hurt tourism?

[Mubarak] Of course it hurts tourism. It seems that many sides do not want Egypt to be revived economically. Some incidents have taken place. One English woman was attacked and there have been numerous incidents where more Egyptians were injured than foreigners, but the tourist hears the propaganda [preceding word in English] and is frightened. Some tourists might say that they have crime in England and people there get injured and wounded more than necessary. At any rate, this is a phase we are going through, and we hope it will pass.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President: The image of Egypt as a secure and stable country has been damaged by the recent acts of terrorism. And do you think that the measures taken, the security measures, the crackdown on the extremists and terrorists, this would be enough to end terrorism in Egypt, and what further measures the government would do to combat terrorism, especially that it is affecting tourism in Egypt?

[Mubarak] That is what I am saying now, that the Western media and some other media in some parts of the world are trying to damage the image of Egypt in that sense. Also, there are so many incidents compared with Egypt taking place in Europe, in the States, everywhere in the world. It is not something made especially for Egypt. It is a trend nearly in so many countries in the world. But when Egypt is concerned, big propaganda, bringing the case, making very huge story which may not fit with what has happened.

The measures we are taking are very tough measures. Everything is under control, not as what is mentioned in the media. For example, the problem of Imbabah. Who made this mess the main and encouraged him? The

Western media. He himself said that. He said that the... [changes thought] some REUTER and maybe other factions saying that he is the emir and he is living in an independent state in Imbabah. I could not believe that. So the man said they are saying me that I am an emir, an emir, so the people are calling me the emir.

[Unidentified correspondent] Picturing him as a hero.

[Mubarak] As a hero. They are all criminals. Even, they have nothing to be mentioned about the Islam as some people said.

[Unidentified correspondent] Taking Islam, I mean the terrorism, taking it with Islamists, I mean the terminology used in news agencies—the terrorist as Islamist—comparing both of them together, that does not mean that terrorism is Islam. It is not. It is completely different.

[Mubarak] I could tell you something. Islam and nearly all the religions are against any kind of bloodshed and terrorism. Not only Islam, but Christianity, Judaism, and all these religions. But there are some so-called Islamic countries who want to create problems in this part of the world. They will never succeed. How many months they are making big efforts to create problems here, and we know them by name. I do not want to mention this now, but I tell you it is a failure for them to think that they could succeed in doing something in Egypt.

[Unidentified correspondent] Okay, Mr. President, some of the observers are saying that a military crackdown on the extremists would not help. It would fuel extremists in Egypt.

[Mubarak] It will?

[Unidentified correspondent] It will increase extremism in Egypt. Is the government thinking of taking other measures like dialogue, like economic reforms, that would help change the status quo?

[Mubarak] I do not agree with what is mentioned by these observers. It is not right. If they want us just to, to...not to control these people, that means that they want this terrorism to spread all over the country. We will never accept that. We will never accept that. And what happened in the military court is not finding the Islamics to create much more problems. And they are not Muslims. We should not speak of Islam that is bloodshed and terrorism, and killing, and that thing. It is not true. The real Muslims never adopt such acts at all.

[NEW YORK TIMES correspondent] THE NEW YORK TIMES. You have a situation with many of your professional unions, where the heads of the unions are not elected by popular vote. The recent case being the lawyers' union where people were [changes thought]...the fundamentalists just bust people in and took over the union. They now control many professional unions, engineers. Are you going to do anything, take any steps, perhaps to change this situation?

[Mubarak] Look my friend, we do not feel that at all. If you thought that these professional unions, some of the so-called Islamic, come to the top, the people, and the public, and the lawyers themselves, they have to react. They should not wait for the government to react. We do not fear that.

[Unidentified correspondent] We encountered some difficulties in 1992. We would like your excellency to assess the government and popular performance, particularly because the Western media ignore all positive developments in Egypt.

[Mubarak] I cannot say it was a difficult year; we have gone through more difficult years. Even though some events have taken place, this does not mean that we are shaking with fear or that the government will sit with its hands tied. The economic situation when I took office was more difficult. Circumstances were very difficult after President al-Sadat's assassination. Nothing could be more difficult than that; the economic conditions were bad, there were many [political] detainees, and certain organizations were being encouraged by some circles. I do not think anything could be more difficult than that. This is not a difficult year. We are well in control, and we have no fear. As I told your colleague from THE NEW YORK TIMES about trade unions, we have absolutely no fear from this area. I do not think that there is anything to fear from the trade unions. The people must learn; they must know how to distinguish between right and wrong. The public will support the state. As for the government, it is performing its duty as it should; it is taking the necessary measures to secure the people so we can get rid of the groups in question. Most of those involved in criminal acts are originally criminals; one of them has been implicated in 12 cases and is now acting as a prince. How easy it is to be a prince. Anybody can find someone in REUTER or any other agency to write about him as a prince; then, he becomes a prince here. They believe themselves.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President....

[Mubarak, interrupting] Who will you make prince next?

[Sacher] Steven Sacher, BBC Television. My question is this: Some official within your government has said in recent days, after the security operation in Imbabah, that they are confident that perhaps as many as 90 percent of the extremists and terrorists have been captured and that the terrorist organization has effectively been destroyed, crushed. I wonder what is your opinion?

[Mubarak] This is the same opinion of mine.

[Sacher] You feel that you have crushed the terrorists and that there is no possible....

[Mubarak, interrupting] We crushed them and we are not going to leave any terrorist or any bad action against the people here, either Egyptians or foreigners, anyway.

[Sacker] What about human rights? In this operation to crush the terrorists, many observers from human rights organizations in this country have accused the security forces of...

[Mubarak, interrupting] You could ask this organization of human rights whom they are contacting and whom they are speaking with. If they are asking for human rights here, let them see the human rights in their countries also. We are not doing one-tenth of what happens in the countries of these organizations. And we are keen on the human rights.

[Sacker] Do you think there have been abuses, though, in the last few weeks?

[Mubarak] It could happen anywhere, in any country all over the world. But we do not agree to that anyway. Whenever there is a case of abuse, they have the court and they could go to the court. And we will not stand against them in the court at all anyway.

[Sacker] I have one final question. It is: I just came back from Luxor. People in Luxor were telling me they were very worried because, as far as they were concerned for their particular businesses—their shops, hotels—90 percent of business had gone since the terrorists began their operations. Do you fear the impact that the terrorists have had upon the tourism industry? How is Egypt going to cope?

[Mubarak] It is natural that such terroristic action will make the tourists terrified. But I think the measure taken now is quite enough to secure all the people in Luxor, especially the tourists. Of course, this affected us economically. But we are working hard for the stability and for keeping the flow of tourism coming to our country. And I think that all the Egyptians now... [changes thought] You could feel what the Egyptians want. The people, the public everywhere are against this terrorism by all ways and means and they are helping even the police in capturing these people. They sometimes hunt the criminals. With the help of the public, I think we will overcome all these points so quickly.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, one of the objectives of terrorism is obviously to strike at the stability and great democracy we are experiencing. At the same time, confronting terrorism could harm democracy. This is usually a very difficult equation or process. To what extent can we balance confronting terrorism and preserving democracy?

[Mubarak] We will not divert from democracy. Therefore, we will confront terrorism through legitimacy and the law. Other countries might cancel the law and constitution and take very violent measures. I am not an advocate of such moves. I do not want the people of Egypt to enter a new phase of totalitarianism or violence. The objective of all this terrorism is to force an undemocratic regime on the country. Those who like this type of talk and those who provide them with this type of talk do not want democracy, even though they might pretend to be democratic. These are totalitarian regimes. Under no circumstances will we allow them to take over. We should not fear this or fear dealing with terrorism legitimately.

We will not divert from democracy. Democracy is very harsh on those who divert from it.

[Unidentified correspondent] We all know that there are foreign elements helping terrorism with funds and words. One of those elements is Iran, which freely admits its support of such groups. What are the steps and on what basis will relations with Iran be discussed, especially in light of the Syrian mediation offered by [Syrian Foreign Minister] Dr. al-Shar'?

[Mubarak] You have to know that we are not naive. Egypt is a country with many wise and educated people. There are extremely alert people here. The Egyptian people are instinctively alert and aware of events around them. I have spoken about mediation once before. My goal is to have good relations with all countries. I do not like hostility. I want our relations to be good with all countries, including Iran. However, if Iran continues to commit such idiocies, I would like to tell it that it will not succeed. It makes a great deal of propaganda [preceding word in English], but I tell it that it will end in failure, and they will be unable to harm Egypt's stability under any circumstances, regardless of what happens.

[Unidentified correspondent] Another question Mr. President, there are obviously some bad intentions about what has been published about Egypt abroad recently. I believe that we have written about this in our newspapers in Egypt. However, some correspondents who write positively about Egypt complain about the absence of an official government spokesman, someone who can respond to their questions. What steps can be taken to help in this regard?

[Mubarak] There are some people who write the truth. They write the facts about Egypt. We respect these people because we can find out what is fact and what is not. Some of them write in an exaggerated way because they contact elements that like exaggeration and work against the interests of our country. The information they get from these elements are sensationalized in external media. One sits there and reads with great attention about Egypt suffering from this, that, or the other. Everyone likes to read, but nobody will read about the fact that Egypt is a stable country because stability is natural. Incidents, instability, and terrorism are things that attract readers, who like to read the details of such events.

Regarding the issue of having a government spokesman, the Information Ministry along with the Public Information Organization could be consulted from time to time. We could provide someone who can answer all questions, every 15 days or month.

[Nicholson] Mr. President, Panju Nicholson, BBC World Service. Sudan government officials have alleged that Iran and Sudan are behind the murder....

[Mubarak, interrupting] Iran and what?

[Nicholson] Sudan. But there has been no proof provided, no detailed evidence behind these allegations. Can you say why?

[Mubarak] Look, I do not want to touch on this point now, as far as there is investigation in the courts concerning Iran and what happens there. I do not worry about Sudan. We have good relations with the people of Sudan. If there is problems with the Sudanese governors, this is something we put aside. But the relations between the Egyptian people and the Sudanese people are very well. We have about 5 million Sudanese living in Egypt. Some of them are working in Egypt, earning their living in Egypt. So we do not fear that. If there is something concerning Iran, I think it is better to wait until the cases which are before the court could come to an end. Then all the facts will be declared.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much Mr. president. Can I just ask a quick follow to my colleague from the BBC's question about Imbabah?

[Mubarak] What?

[Unidentified correspondent] About Imbabah. When do you think this operation will finish and do you think it will be the last that we will see in Egypt of this scale?

[Mubarak, laughing] Imbabah has become very famous all over the world, as though it was, as you mentioned, an independent state. We have an independent states in Egypt. You make it independent; you made the man the emir [prince.] I am not talking that to the BBC; I am talking in general. You made the man the emir; the man believed himself to be emir. Now he is saying, confessing: I am not an emir; but the media made me an emir and the people were calling me the emir when they read it. He felt that he was an emir. Now he is in jail.

He asked me if this would be the last event. I could not guarantee. If the population is 55 or 58 millions, incidents will sometimes take place. But a large scale incident; I do not think that this will happen again.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, president Yasir 'Arafat praised the role the Egyptian people and leadership have played since the outset of the Palestinian problems. Now that talks were held in Washington and has produced results—what kind, God only knows, and under a new U.S. Administration. [sentence as heard] What I am asking President Mubarak is if you are still optimistic that a solution to the Palestinian cause will be found soon in light of these results?

[Mubarak] There is something I would like to say about the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian issue is entering its 50th year. We solved our problems with the Camp David accord, which nobody was please about. They abused Egypt and al-Sadat because of that accord. They say al-Sadat was assassinated because of Camp David. We signed a peace treaty with Israel and restored all our lands and are now engaged in economic development. If they had listened to us at the time of Camp David, the Palestinian issue would have been resolved and we would have been living in peace. We would not have economic or other problems; we would have all cooperated in the economic field, instead of spending all the money on military aspects, armament, fighting, and all these things. With the ongoing negotiations, I am sure that a peace will be reached, probably not with the expected speed, because this is an old problem. However, I am optimistic that peace is coming. People are fed up with fighting; they are fed up with the expenses involved; they want to live, eat, work, and lead the life led by other citizens all over the world. Therefore, I believe that things will make progress. True, problems arise in the course of negotiations. When we held negotiations with Israel, you all remember that things were not proceeding smoothly. We encountered many problems; this is the nature of negotiations. They will encounter one problem after another and they will solve them. We all are working to bring views closer and to serve the Palestinian cause. However, I trust that peace is coming and that the issue is proceeding in spite of the obstacles. We are trying to help both sides, the Israelis and Palestinians, to facilitate negotiations.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can we expect the new U.S. Administration to be understanding?

[Mubarak] I do not think that the U.S. Administration, the old and the new alike, will change its policy on peace. It is working for stability and peace in the region.

[Badawi] Jamal Badawi from AL-WAFD. I have a question concerning the presidential decree referring certain cases to military courts. The State Council's Administrative Court later issued a ruling conflicting with that decree. There is a controversy in jurisprudence and legal circles about the president's entitlement to refer certain cases to the military court. How do you view this controversy?

[Mubarak] I would like to tell you something. I do not want to say anything against the judiciary. The military court issued the sentence. The Administrative Court issued another sentence, which was rejected by the military court. The issue is now being considered by the Constitutional Court. Let us proceed within the realm of legitimacy. The Constitutional Court will decide the line to be taken by the judiciary in this regard. If I had not referred this case.... [changes thought] I do not want to accuse the Egyptian judiciary. When a case is referred to the judiciary, you will say that it takes two, three, or even four years. I agree with you, because when it comes to statements and deference is requested for one reason or another, the judge is usually busy with other cases. That is why cases are deferred for two or three months until

the judge finds the time to consider the case. The defense may request further deference. This is one of the reasons for extended procedures.

When we referred the case to the military court, we believed that the issue had no room for extended procedure because it was a matter of Egyptian stability, economy, and the entire Egyptian people. On this basis, I used my authority to refer the case to the Military Court, which has its just judiciary and lawyers. Some object to the fact that it is a military court. It is better, however, than resorting to illegal methods. I am careful to keep all our measures within the limits of legitimacy, so that we can all learn that the right road runs through legitimate channels. Our democracy will collapse if we resort to illegitimate methods.

Does democracy mean letting things get out of hand even when I have authorities to rectify things that hurt the country? If we had done that, things would have taken the same course they have taken in other countries; we would have lost our legitimacy. What could we do then? The country would have regressed. If tourism is declining now, it could have stopped completely. Investors would have panicked and transferred their money abroad. Who would have been hurt? The Egyptian citizen; he would have failed to manage or to find a job. Unemployment would have increased. The world is trying to increase production and open factories to create jobs for citizens. If we do not use our authority within a democratic and legitimate framework, it could lead to a serious setback that would affect the Egyptian citizen primarily. I am anxious to protect the Egyptian citizen with all means at my disposal. I make every possible effort to protect democracy, which takes care of the citizen. If I have a certain authority and fail to use it, what will happen?

[Badawi] There is a fear that this authority might be used later.

[Mubarak] No, no. Have no fear of this authority. Tell me: When have I used this authority? I used it after al-Sadat's assassination, when the country was at a state of chaos. If we had failed to control things quickly, the entire country and the people would have been lost. When did we use the authority again? I only use it in cases that require quick measures. Apart from that, I do not have to use this authority. The public prosecution refers cases to the courts. If cases take two or three years and some complain of extended legal procedures, the parliament can examine the matter to find the cause and the men of the judiciary can also examine the matter. But if I see a danger approaching and receive it with open arms, I would be irresponsible. This is a presidential responsibility. People would say the president is scared and would not use his authority. They would then ask me to do anything to protect them and enable them to go about their lives. What would I tell them? Answer me, if you know the answer. If anybody has a solution, I am willing to listen.

[Badawi] Thank you Mr. President.

[Mubarak] Why did they state these authorities in the first place? If these authorities are abused, be sure that no one in the parties or the parliament would keep silent. We use the authority at the proper time and place. Our goal is to safeguard the Egyptian citizen's life and livelihood.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, allow me to move to the tragic situation in Somalia. UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali has underlined the importance of disarming the warring factions. The peacekeeping forces have started to arrive. Can we expect Egyptian forces to arrive in Somalia soon?

[Mubarak] We will send peacekeeping forces to Somalia. If people are talking about Bosnia-Hercegovina, thousands of Somalis are dying every day. Some people cannot find their daily bread; they break our hearts when we see them on television. This is a Muslim, Arab people. The situation in Somalia involves many parties. The country has lost its basic resources. The Western world says that the food aid they send is being looted and that it does not reach the people. The people are dying as a result. Unfortunately, the people who are taking care of the Muslim Somali people at the moment are British and French nationals who are not Muslims. You can see them as they feed the Somali nationals. I wish our brother Muslims would help and take care of the Somalis, feed them, and supply them with the desired assistance, instead of fighting. I believe that the measure proposed by the UN secretary general is meant for security reasons. The powers involved will probably not take the weapons they collected; they will hand them over to the constitutional institutions once they are established in that country.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to go back to the issue of terrorism and tourism. Some exaggerations may have occurred in the foreign handling of the issue of terrorism in Egypt. However, it is certain that this tourist season has been seriously and vitally damaged by terrorism. When can we really say that Egypt is secure? What are the limits of what is going on right now in Imbabah? Are there similar pockets in other areas, like 'Ayn Shams, that will require an all-out confrontation? When can we tell the foreign tourists once again that they are no longer in danger in Egypt?

[Mubarak] I would like to tell you something. The media made Imbabah important. I do not mean the Egyptian media; it was the foreign media that blew the matter out of proportion. Problems exist in all states. There are slums [preceding word in English] in every country, including the United States, England, and other states. You hear about people who sleep in the underground in England or people who sleep in the streets in America—these are rich countries—and the people in France. This phenomenon is not exclusive to Egypt. But once it happens in Egypt, the matter is immediately blown out of proportion, as though these problems exist no where

else. The measures we are taking are bound to establish stability. We will show no lenience, because the Egyptian citizen's safety is at stake. We take the measures within the framework of legitimacy and the law, because I am careful to safeguard democracy. I will not destroy democracy. If we ignore these incidents, they will kill democracy and the people will suffer.

Tourism has been damaged. A tourist comes to have a good time but when there are one, two, or three incidents reported in the media abroad—even though there are dozens more of such incidents in other countries every day—advanced ones look at that. The tourist knows that Egypt is a good country and its people are good. When I visited Luxor, I saw women tourists riding motorcycles and bicycles to the archaeological sites on the western bank. Some of them were sitting in small huts drinking tea with citizens of Luxor who welcomed them and took care of their welfare. I was pleased with that. The Egyptian citizen is good natured and he does not want his livelihood and income to stop. When you hurt or scare tourists, you are hurting the entire Egyptian people. When a tourist comes and spends $1,000-$2,000, that is around 7,000 Egyptian pounds, how many people live on that? Did they get upset when we said we are paying the price of wheat in cash? The outlaws are very angry. Alright, how will we pay when there is no tourism? Will we borrow? How will be pay for the wheat? All this hurts the Egyptian people.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, it is clear that they have targeted tourism because they believe that tourism will mark the start of a new stage that will bring in investment that could effect a very rapid qualitative change in the Egyptian economy during this economic boom wave. They wanted to strike a blow at this stage to deprive Egypt of this. But the positive phenomenon also is that the people have felt that these people are endangering their lives. The people have acted and sensed the danger of terrorism. We believe they want to thwart economic development in Egypt, especially with all the indications that Egypt could achieve this improvement this year.

[Mubarak] God knows what would have happened had the situation aggravated. They would have paid a heavy price. A regime might have come, attacked and put all of them in prisons, and sealed the whole country. Do we want this? Do we accept this? At any rate, I praise the Egyptian media, both partisan and non-partisan, regardless of some violations in some papers. I even praise the foreign media that is telling the truth to the public abroad or locally. Seek the truth. We want nothing but the truth. Do not exaggerate. The media should not go to someone with vengeance on his mind who tells stories that are not true. Anyone who uses this information wants to hurt the Egyptian people and I do not believe that such a person wishes the Egyptian citizen well.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, some reports spoke about an escalation of tension between Egypt and Sudan over the disputed area of Hala'ib and some reactions from the ambassador of Sudan in London that Egypt would have to bear the consequences of its position in Hala'ib. We'd like to know what the Egyptian position is going to be if Sudan sticks to its position in Hala'ib? What is the Egyptian position?

[Mubarak] Our position is well known all over the world. There is an agreement which been signed. They come now and say we didn't agree on that. It is their business. I don't think that the escalation will reach a confrontation. We are just now securing our borders because of all the rumors, all the information say that there is so many arms coming from this direction. That's why we are tightening control there. If the Sudanese ambassador says that Egypt have to carry the burden, let him speak according to his else. An ambassador cannot say that. We know this very well. We have good relations with the Sudanese people. If their government is against that, this is something else.

[Unidentified correspondent] I am bureau chief of the Japan Economic [word indistinct] here. I have a question about Muslims fundamentalist extremists. Western news agencies just reported a few days ago, a couple of days ago, the Muslim extremists are going to attack not only foreign tourists but also the foreign diplomats if you don't stop arresting them. Mr. President, please tell me should we worry about that?

[Mubarak] You shouldn't worry because for one simple reason. I could call somebody here and tell him please contact this embassy and tell them we are going to kill you, we are going to. If you believe that, then leave the country. Anybody can do it. Anybody can write a paper and print it and send to all embassies. Any single man just to make a case of a problem. We should understand we are here on the stability in this country.

[Unidentified correspondent] I asked you because....

[Mubarak, interrupting] I read about it. But I am not (?ready) to believe it. Anyway, if somebody just making to make an escalation to make the ambassadors certified of Egypt and leave the country, this is their goal.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, I asked about tourism before. I'd like to return to the same subject. I just want to put this to you. After the first series of incidents with tourists which goes back, I suppose, to the summer when there was a few bomb at Karnak Temple and a few very small incidents, officials in Cairo said tourists do not have any reasons to worry, they should still come. There was a clear message from yourself and the government that tourists should still come to this country. Then later in the year we had other incidents ending with the attack which killed the English woman and the German bus attack. Still the message is that tourists should come to this country; but, for the British person in London who is thinking of coming on holiday to Egypt what guarantee can you give that this country is truly safe?

[Mubarak] I think all the measures being taken now to secure the tourists are very well done in Luxor, Aswan, even in Cairo. The small incidents takes here or there it

happens everywhere, happens in London itself and you are very well acquainted with what is happening in London every week. So we cannot secure 100 percent like any other country in the world. We cannot secure or guarantee 100 percent that. A foreigner could go to London, could go to America, or anywhere. He may be assassinated by some terrorist groups. That does not mean that the country is not stable, that there are no measures to secure the people. We are doing the maximum measures to secure the people here in this country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, there was the IMF, some IMF officials were saying that Egypt did not meet its conditions, there was some delay in Egypt preceding privatization. And IMF agreement was delayed, it was not signed on time. So what is Egypt planning to do to meet the IMF conditions?

[Mubarak] I do not know from where you brought all this information. We had a delegation who was in Washington, maybe one week ago, and they discussed everything and they concluded that all what have done in the first program was done perfectly well. And I think maybe Egypt is the only country is fulfilling its obligations towards IMF and the World Bank. And the only program which is going perfectly well because we do it because we are sure this is for the benefit of the Egyptian people. The next program is going to start by the beginning of March and a delegation from IMF and the World Bank will be coming here, maybe after the new year, just to discuss the new program. The old program is finished and was done 200 percent.

About the privatization, we cannot, like any other country, say that all the public sector should be privatized in six months. It needs a study and we are going and the IMF and the World Bank know that we are going in that direction. But this takes time. In the U.K., how many public sector factories was privatized in 10 years? I think 12, something like that. In 10 years. Any hurry without good study may make a collapse. We are not that. But we are keen on the privatization in the way which secures our production and our country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. president, just another question on tourism industry. You mentioned that it had been hurt, there is damage. The tourism industry, you mentioned earlier, has been damaged somewhat by the publicity and by the attacks. Can you tell us how much in terms of revenues or do you have any sense of how badly the tourism industry has been hurt the last two months?

[Mubarak] About maybe 30, 35 percent, about that figure.

[Unidentified correspondent] And what in terms of, we have read that the tourism industry employs about a million Egyptians and brings in 3 billion [currency not identified] a year. Do you have any terms in terms of state revenues, also in terms of taxes, how much you get from foreign tourism?

[Mubarak] Of course, when the tourism is cut by 30 percent it affects in so many directions. That's why we are keen on that. We are trying hard, as I mentioned, to secure the tourists, to secure the areas where the tourists go there, so as to continue or to make the flow of the tourism continue here in this country. It is not only Egypt who is keen on the continuation of the tourism in its country. It is Europe, U.K., France, Italy, all these countries, Spain. They are keen on the tourism. We are doing our best to secure the tourists in our country.

[Unidentified correspondent] One last question on the Sudan. There have been reports that there are anywhere between 12 and 20 training camps where Egyptian militants or extremists can train. There have also been reports, which you probably can't respond to, that the Egyptians themselves are training, in the event that these camps continue, for some kind of a response. Can you talk, number one about the camps and what your response would be, if you agree that the camps exist, if the Sudanese do not close them down?

[Mubarak] Look, those who made recent acts of violence in this country had been in Afghanistan some time ago, when the two Afghan factions were fighting each other—when the Soviets were there. When the Soviets withdrew, so many of these people, who were trained in some place in Pakistan before going to Afghanistan, returned back via Tehran, then Sudan, then came to Egypt via Libya. That is why these events started in this country. Before that, we had some small incidents which could happen anywhere in the world. Our information is that there are some camps in Sudan. The Sudanese Government denied that. But we are sure that the camps are existing there. They are not only for Egyptians; they have some Egyptians, some Tunisians, some Libyans, some Algerians, some from other Arab countries which I do not want to name. But believe me, if the Sudanese officials are going to continue that, then they have to carry the burden of this act.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, we feel from what has been said today that what we should really combat in the Western media itself and not just terrorism hitting home, because they only react to minor incidents of terrorism, especially that we know what is happening all over the world—say England and Germany for instance. The Egyptian television has already taken strong steps in trying to answer back to acts of terrorism and what is being said about it. What else in your opinion should be done?

[Mubarak] What?

[Correspondent] What else ought to be done?

[Mubarak] By our television?

[Correspondent] Our television has already taken strong steps in that field. In order to combat the opinion of Western media, what else do you think ought to be done in order to dissipate public opinion?

[Mubarak] Look, our television and our media are free. Our newspapers here are free and I pray them they are putting down the facts and the reality in their papers.

[sentence as heard] If some Western media—and they did this before—went to Bosnia, specific factions, to ask them about the man who is called Jabir [Islamic Group's Habbakuk leader] and were told that he is a kind man, a very good man, looking after the children, I do not think they were telling the truth. As far as you are in Egypt, in Cairo, not asking you to say something except the truth. Please tell the truth. I am urging them to tell the reality of such event, not to exaggerate to create problems. Because this committee will appear and the reality will be well known to the whole people of this country.

[Unidentified correspondent] A couple of days ago, you received a message from his highness the Qatari amir and held contacts with his majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques. There is a problem concerning Qatar's participation in the Gulf Cooperation Council summit. Is Egypt trying to mediate to solve the border problem between the two countries? Has this mediation worked? Will Qatar take part in the summit?

[Mubarak] You are posing a sensitive question. Yes, I contacted the Qatari amir. I called him and talked to him within the framework of fraternity among Arabs. I also contacted the custodian of the two holy mosques. Small misunderstandings can sometimes mar the atmosphere. This happens among brothers. However, I trust this problem will run its course before a solution is found. I do not want to add anything more on the issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

Musa Urges Israel Not To Deport Palestinians

NC1712103092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has called on Israel to rescind its decision to deport a number of Palestinians from the occupied territories to enable the peace process to continue, to give it a chance, and to prevent reactions that could undermine it. This came in a statement Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made today in response to a question about the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli Government's announcement that it will take strong repressive measures against the Palestinians.

Musa called on all the parties to give peace a chance and enable the negotiations to achieve the desired progress.

Regarding the current reciprocal escalation between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Israeli Government and its effect on the PLO, especially since PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that Iran finances some of the extremist Palestinian groups, the foreign minister said that extremism in the occupied territories has its special circumstances, adding that we must not forget that these are territories under occupation. He called on all the parties not to embark on an arms-Palestinian conflict. Musa said: We believe that the Palestinians have our leadership and our goal, which is peace.

The foreign minister affirmed the need to strengthen the Palestinian negotiating delegations, give it a chance, and prepare a suitable atmosphere for the negotiations to continue.

Answering a question on reports that the peace negotiations in Washington have reached a deadlock and his assessment of these negotiations, the foreign minister said: The term deadlock is too strong. He expressed the belief that the negotiations have not reached a deadlock yet. He added: If we consider that these negotiations are taking place along several tracks, perhaps as far as the negotiators are concerned, there was deadlock on one track in the last round and they must find another way.

He reiterated that he still thinks that the current talks have not failed. "On the contrary," he said, "I see that there are many available chances on the various tracks. Although we appreciate the difficulty of the situation, the complications in the negotiations, and the fact that they could be long, the situation is better than it was."

Answering a question about the possibility of Egypt hosting the meetings of the environmental affairs committee of the multilateral negotiations, Musa said that within the framework of the multilateral negotiations, which are taking place in five committees, including one on the environment, it is possible that one of the meetings will be held in Cairo. He stated that no agreement has been reached yet about the date and venue, but in principle there is no objection to holding it in Cairo.

'Amr Musa Affirms Support for Lebanon

NC1712113392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, 17 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed Egypt's support for Lebanon's reconstruction effort and said that talks and contacts are taking place between the Egyptian and Lebanese Governments on this issue. He noted that Lebanon's reconstruction and return to its normal standing is important for all Arabs and everyone in the region.

In an interview published by the Lebanese weekly AL-DUNYA today, he said: We stand by Lebanon against any aggression on its land, people, and stability, adding that the tense situation in the south is part of the Middle East problem.

He expressed his hope that the bilateral negotiations between Arab countries and Israel will lead to comprehensive peace and stability in the region and to Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the announced partial withdrawal is a tactic and that Israel knows very

well that without a complete withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967, peace cannot be established in the region.

'Severe Threats' Exchanged With Sudan Over Hala'ib

PM1612144492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p 1

[Mu'awiyah Yasin and Ahmad al-Sukkari report: "Khartoum and Cairo Exchange Threats"]

[Text] London, Cairo—Sudanese and Egyptian officials have exchanged severe threats which reflect the extent of the tension in relations between the two countries after Khartoum accused Cairo of deploying forces in the Hala'ib triangle, the sovereignty over which is disputed between them.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa insisted that the Egyptian presence there "will continue without increase or reduction." In a meeting held yesterday by the political club of the ruling National Democratic Party in Egypt, Musa said that his country "will confront with full vigor any interference that harms it and affects its security and stability."

Musa admitted that tension still blemishes relations between the two countries. And he said that the joint higher committee could meet before the date set for its third meeting next January. He added that it is possible to contain any dispute and prevent it from spreading.

But a Sudanese government official told AL-HAYAH by telephone from Khartoum that Cairo has deployed a military battalion led by a colonel in the Hala'ib area. He said: "It has not *just* encircled Hala'ib, but penetrated half a kilometer south of parallel 22, which separates the common borders."

He added that the Egyptian forces raised two flags—one Egyptian and one Sudanese—as evidence of the common border. He accused the forces of searching Sudanese citizens' homes. He considered this "an insult to Sudanese citizens' dignity and a blatant violation of the Sudanese state's sovereignty."

This situation is unacceptable, he said. Khartoum, he pointed out, expects these forces to withdraw today. He did not clarify whether his country has demanded that Egypt withdraw them before the deadline he mentioned. However, he added that high-level contacts are being made between the two countries to ascertain the position of the higher authorities in Egypt on "that interference."

He went on: "If the Egyptian forces do not withdraw today from Hala'ib and the Sudanese territories they are occupying to the south, Khartoum will come to the conclusion that these forces are carrying out orders from higher quarters." he threatened that "these quarters must then be held responsible for what will result from their forces' continued presence there."

In London, Sudanese Embassy spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Afandi said that crossing parallel 22 "means that the Egyptian authorities believe that securing their borders includes moving the border itself to wherever they believe is secure."

He pointed out that "some quarters believe that the U.S. intervention in Somalia scares Khartoum to the point of relinquishing its sovereignty over national territory, but these calculations are wrong."

Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Izz-al-Din Hamid told AL-HAYAH that contacts are being made between Cairo and Khartoum to stop the escalation.

Libya Reportedly Hands Over Terrorist to Authorities

PM1712093092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p1

[Unattributed report: "Libya Hands Over to Egypt Absconder From Asyut"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Libyan security authorities have handed over to the Egyptian authorities one of the terrorists who participated in the Sanabu massacre in Asyut last summer in which 15 people, most of them Copts, were killed. He had managed to infiltrate into Libya.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian security authorities have foiled the biggest attempt to smuggle arms from Sudan and have arrested an Egyptian arms dealer.

Talks on Cooperation With Uzbekistan End 17 Dec

Multiple Agreements Signed

NC1612143192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Uzbek President Islam Karimov signed today the agreement on establishing relations and cooperation between Egypt and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed an agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with his counterpart Qurab Bayov, member of the Uzbek delegation. Dr. Makramallah signed another bilateral agreement on encouraging and protecting investments.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa signed an agreement on air transport with Uzbek delegation member Abdurazagov.

Mubarak Holds Final Session

NC1712084992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0816 17 Dec GMT 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Uzbek President Islam Karimov held a final session of talks at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning.

They discussed means to consolidate and develop bilateral relations in various political, economic, and cultural fields and to activate trade exchange.

Uzbek President Departs Cairo

NC1712095292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0928 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Uzbek President Islam Karimov left Cairo this morning at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning. [passage omitted]

Space Channel To Be Broadcast

NC1712113992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that in light of his talks and meetings with Uzbek President Islam Karimov, President Husni Mubarak issued instructions to install equipment so that the Egyptian Space Channel can transmit to Uzbekistan.

He said reception of the broadcasts in Uzbekistan will help in consolidating relations between the two peoples and countries and in identifying with Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic culture.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1712103492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and Uzbekistan have stressed the importance of holding regular consultations at various levels between the two countries to effectively develop bilateral relations.

In a joint communique released in Cairo today at the end of Uzbek President Islam Karimov's official visit to Egypt, the two countries affirmed their commitment to the aims and principles of the UN Charter and other world organizations.

President Islam Karimov invited President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to pay an official visit to Uzbekistan and President Mubarak accepted the invitation.

Egypt and Uzbekistan reiterated their conviction that a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by peaceful means based on implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two countries expressed their support for the talks now under way to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The communique praised the constructive spirit that prevailed in the talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Islam Karimov. The talks resulted in the signing of an agreement on (?establishing) cooperation and relations between Egypt and Uzbekistan opening broad horizons for joint cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The talks also resulted in the signing of agreements on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, encouraging and protecting investments, and aviation services on air transport.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0928 GMT on 17 December reports: "Uzbek President Islam Karimov left Cairo this morning at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak." MENA adds: "He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning."]

Mubarak on Visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar

NC1712120992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Saudi Arabia at noon today. He will meet His Majesty King Fahd, the custodian of the two Holy Mosques in Medina. He will hold a session of talks with the Saudi king immediately after arriving with his delegation in the city.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak will spend approximately two hours in Medina after which he will proceed to Doha, where he will meet and have private talks with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar. He will also hold talks with senior Qatari officials.

President Mubarak is expected to spend the night in the Qatari capital.

[In an earlier, related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1123 GMT on 17 December says a visit by President Mubarak to Qatar and Saudi Arabia is imminent, adding: "MENA has learned that a statement will be issued today or tomorrow about settling the remaining differences between Qatar and Saudi Arabia."]

Greater Arab Coordination With Turkey Urged

NC1412194292 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Dec 92 p 9

[AL-AHRAM editorial]

[Text] Arab states have always sought to establish good and cordial relations with neighboring countries within the framework of good neighborliness and mutual

respect. Israel has problems with the Arab world that make its relations with Arab states deviate from that framework due to its occupation of Arab lands and its infringement on the sovereignty of several Arab states. Turkey, Iran, and Ethiopia can subjugate their relations with Arab states to the principles of good neighborliness.

Iran has pursued several hostile policies toward Arab states, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, and launched media campaigns that undermine security and stability in the region in an attempt to play the role of a military superpower in the region.

The heritage of relations with Turkey in the past indicates that it is the only neighboring country with which outstanding differences can be solved in a cordial and diplomatic manner. Coordination can be established with Turkey to stand up to Iranian ambitions and expansionist policies. This underlines the importance of the positive developments in Turkish-Gulf relations and Egyptian- Turkish cooperation to defend peace and stability in the region.

In the meantime, an understanding can be reached with Turkey on several points of differences within the framework of respect for the rights and interests of all, which will help counter the Iranian expansionist policies in the Gulf region. The foundations for an Arab-Turkish cooperation to confront the Iranian influence in the Islamic republics of central Asia can be established as well.

Limits of Iranian-Yemeni Cooperation Questioned

NC1412182592 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Dec 92 p 14

[Wajih Abu-Dhikri's "Arab Awareness" Column: "The New Gateway For Iranian Terrorism"]

[Excerpt] Through miscalculations, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wants to ride the high waves in our Arab world. Thinking that Saddam Husayn's "wave" was high, he rode it, but Saddam's wave was broken and the Yemeni people had to pay for their president's weakness of political calculations.

Seeing that Saddam's star is on the wane, the Yemeni president started to woo Iran, knowing that the next "wave" would be Iranian and Shiite. Salih believes that Iran is closer to him than Arab states. The ruling system in northern Yemen is Zaydi, that is, Shiite, similar to that of Iran, and because he himself is a Zaydi.

I would like to note here that it is not wrong to say that there is a northern as opposed to a southern Yemen, despite the unity between the two sectors. Reality there is much stronger than diversity, but this is a different story.

The desires of Iran's Shiites and Yemen's Zaydis met. Hence, 'Abdallah Salih sent his interior minister, Colonel Ghalib al-Qarmush, to Tehran to participate in the meeting of Islamic countries' interior ministers and sound out cooperation potentials between Sanaa and Tehran. The minister later visited Tehran more than once to establish bilateral security coordination. A program for such coordination, whose objectives are unclear, was drawn up.

However, Yemeni security and military missions, comprised exclusively of Zaydis, traveled to Tehran for training.

Coordinating the secret ties between the two countries was entrusted to a responsible Yemeni figure, 'Ali al-Anas, a Zaydi officer who acts as director of the Presidential Office with a prime minister's rank. Al-Anas was graduated as a security officer in Tehran in 1974.

What arouses suspicion is that the Yemeni interior minister summoned his military attaches in Arab and Islamic countries and invited them to a meeting in that capital [not further specified]. He instructed them to travel to Tehran to conduct a security plan and then return to their posts in the Arab and Islamic countries.

Strangely enough, and probably more suspicious, is that the Yemeni military attache in Cairo, Dr. Colonel Muhammad Hawwat, traveled to that Arab capital three weeks ago and left from there to Tehran!

The question is: Why the military attaches in Arab and Islamic capitals, particularly since all those who traveled were Zaydi Shiites, and what is the type of training they went to Tehran for? Is Tehran looking for a battleground for terrorism, which is found in the Yemeni embassies and military attaches?

I have learned that the military attaches are not Defense Minister Colonel Haytham Qasim's subordinates, contrary to the established tradition observed all over the world. The defense minister is a Shafi'i Sunnite from southern Yemen. As I mentioned before, all the Yemeni military attaches all over the world are Zaydi Shiites who report to the Zaydi interior minister. Can you imagine that the defense minister knows nothing about this secret mission in Tehran? [passage omitted]

AFP Reports More 'Fundamentalists' Arrested

NC1612155192 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, Dec 16 (AFP) - The Egyptian authorities have arrested another 50 Muslim fundamentalists, bringing to 700 the number detained since a crackdown against them was launched last week, police said Wednesday.

Police said 23 fundamentalists were arrested in al-Fayyum, an oasis town south of the capital, and the rest were seized in the poor Cairo neighborhood of Imbabah, where the security sweep began on December 7. [passage omitted]

Security forces on Tuesday rounded up 23 fundamentalists, including six women and 10 militants from the

underground Jama'at al-Shawqiyun group, in al-Fayyum, southwest of Cairo. Police said that 13 were from the teeming Cairo neighborhood of Imbabah, where a sweep of fundamentalist suspects started December 7.

A 27-year-old karate teacher, identified as Hasan Sultan, was among 27 Islamic militants seized Tuesday in Imbabah. Sultan had been ordered by Imbabah's fundamentalist leader Shaykh Gabir 'Ali to teach Islamic militants karate to defend themselves against security sources, according to an Interior Ministry spokesman. Gabir was seized Friday.

Al-Jiush Security Director on Latest Arrests

NC1712125192 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1038 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Major General Ahmad Bakr, al-Jiush security director, has affirmed that the security forces will destroy every one of the terrorists' criminal hotbeds. He said: We are not combating an Islamic thought or call, but terrorist activity, and we will destroy it legally. The security director added that 10 people accused in the Imbabah incidents, led by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qimash, the emir of the organization, are still at large, and when they are arrested, total calm will be restored in Imbabah. [passage omitted]

As of the ninth day of the intensive campaign launched by the security services in the Imbabah area to purge it of terrorists and cells of extremists, 21 members of the extremist groups and six other suspects have been detained. [passage omitted]

Supreme Constitutional Court To Decide Dispute

NC1712112792 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1024 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—For the first time the government has resorted to the Supreme Constitutional Court, asking that it rule in the dispute arising as a result of two conflicting rulings from two courts—one by the Supreme Military Court and the other by the Civil Administrative Court of the State Council.

The government, represented by the Council on State Cases, requested that a pertinent court be named to look into the dispute after the two courts gave conflicting rulings in the Alexandria terrorism cases. [passage omitted]

17 Million-Barrel Oil Reserve Discovered

NC1712140192 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1039 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Oil prospecting operations in al-Ghardaqah area show an estimated 17 million barrels of crude oil reserves in the (Jaysum) oilfield, 70 km from al-Ghardaqah. The field's daily output is estimated at 25,000 barrels. Dr. Ahmad Badr-al-Din, director of the prospecting company, said six of the seven exploratory wells dug contain oil.

Libya

Lockerbie Suspects Reportedly To Be Handed Over

NC1512195792 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will make a goodwill gesture to U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton by handing over the two Libyan officers accused of blowing up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. Informed Arab sources reported this, adding that al-Qadhdhafi obtained a Western pledge conveyed by Cairo that Scotland will try the two defendants according to its laws and that the maximum punishment will not exceed a 15-year prison term. Scottish law does not permit handing over foreign prisoners to a third country. The sources said that the most the United States could interfere in the case would be to participate in certain interrogations of the Libyans. These sources also said that al-Qadhdhafi has obtained a major pledge, which he sought from the outset: Interrogation of the two defendants will not go any further and involve other Libyans who Western intelligence believes to be involved in other actions against the West's interests or against the more than 80 civilian, military, and security opponents to the Libyan regime.

Trial May Begin in January

NC1712110392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 92 p 1

[Majdi Hilmi report]

[Text] Tunis—Libya and Britain have agreed that the Lockerbie defendants will be tried before Scottish courts. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has asked Ahmad al-Khawajah, president of the Egyptian Bar Association, to lead the team that will defend the defendants. Al-Khawajah has selected several Arab and four British lawyers to defend the Libyan suspects. Contacts are being held with the British Government to set a date for the trial. Sources expect it to begin in January 1993.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies Training of 'Foreign Elements'

AB1712093092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, reviewed today in his regular

meeting with the leaders of information organs the ministers of the state governor's conference in Malakal. [passage omitted]

His excellency affirmed that there are no foreign elements undergoing military training in the Sudan. He pointed to the presence of some refugees from Tunisia and Algeria whom, he said, stay like other refugees hosted by the Sudan. He pointed out that Sudan has no aggressive designs against any neighboring state. He said there are friendly relations [with those states] based on good neighborliness agreements.

Government Backtracking on Somalia Justified

PM1612141092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Dec 92 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Official Justification for Backtracking From Previous Position Regarding UN Forces"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Sudanese Government has tried to justify its backtracking from its opposition to the UN forces in Somalia. The information office of the Sudanese Embassy in London issued a statement yesterday "explaining" the Sudanese position which, it said, "was grossly misunderstood, misrepresented, and misinterpreted."

Although the four-page statement sought to deny the report citing a statement by Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahhal regarding amendment of the Sudanese position (carried also by news agencies citing the Sudanese paper AL-INQADH), it did confirm that the Sudanese Government modified its position on the presence of UN forces in Somalia.

The statement mentioned three reservations conveyed to Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, when he was in Khartoum last week. Then it added that the Sudanese officials assured the U.S. official that "they would not resist the UN intervention in Somalia so long as it is confined to declared humanitarian objectives."

Sudanese officials had initially strongly attacked the UN Security Council decision to send forces to Somalia. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir saw the decision as "a sudden escalation and an attempt to revive imperialism in the region and interfere in its affairs." Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahhal expressed "astonishment" at the decision. The official Sudanese media carried various comments attacking the dispatch of UN forces to Somalia and implying that there was a plot against Sudan.

Sudan only softened its opposition after Cohen's visit to Khartoum and his talks with officials there, when he explained the mission of the UN forces in Somalia.

Yesterday's statement by the Sudanese Embassy listed the following reservations regarding the decision to send in UN forces, raised at the UN conference on Somalia held in Addis Ababa at the beginning of this month (that is, before Cohen's visit to Khartoum):

1. The fact that there is no effective government in Somalia does not mean that the Somali people's sovereignty over their territory should be ignored. Therefore, any political solution to the problem should come from the Somalis themselves.

2. The forces that intervene in Somalia should not be overwhelmingly from one state and should have the approval of the Somali factions and the region's states.

3. The forces' task should be clear and specific and there should be no attempt to influence Somalia's political future.

The UN resolution was clear about the humanitarian nature of the UN forces mission. The major Somali factions and prominent leaderships welcomed the resolution. Of all the region's states, Sudan was the only country to oppose the UN forces.

The Sudanese Embassy statement did not deny the Sudanese Government's previous position opposing the resolution. It just provided an explanation and a justification for Sudan's amendment of that position.

Kuwait

Russian Defense Ministry Official Pays Visit

LD1712040392 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Minister of Defense Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, at his office this morning, had a meeting with the director of the general administration of international military cooperation at the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation and his accompanying delegation, who are paying an official four-day visit to Kuwait.

Ways of strengthening joint cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the director of the defense minister's office, Staff Colonel Ya'qub al-Dowayli.

Turkmen President Arrives on Official Visit

LD1512114792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov arrived at the Kuwait International Airport at 1100 today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Kuwait which will last for two days.

The amir of Kuwait, may god preserve him, headed those who were at the airport to welcome him and included the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the speaker of the National Assembly, the minister of the emiri court, the ministers, governors, senior state officials, and the dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Turkmenistan president's delegation comprises a number of senior officials in the Government of Turkmenistan. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Amir

LD1712034892 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] His Excellency President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan at 10 o'clock this morning visited his highness the amir of the country at Bayan Palace, where official talks between them were held.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of amiri court affairs, said that the talks concentrated on the developments of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common interest.

A cordial atmosphere, which was characterized by understanding and a fraternal spirit, prevailed over the talks. His highness, may God preserve him, and his excellency President Saparmurad Niyazov, exchanged a number of souvenirs.

His highness, may God protect him, accepted thankfully an invitation to visit Turkmenistan addressed to him by President Saparmurad Niyazov, the timing of which will be decided later.

Comments on Talks

LD1712035092 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The following press statement was released on the occasion of the conclusion of the visit of the president of Turkmenistan to the State of Kuwait in response to an official invitation by the amir of Kuwait, his highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan paid a visit to Kuwait from 15-16 December 1992. His excellency was accorded an official welcome. The guest was accompanied by a high-level delegation of senior officials in the Republic of Turkmenistan.

The Kuwaiti and Turkmen sides held talks on bilateral relations. They expressed their satisfaction at their continuing development and growth in all fields. They stressed their determination to strengthen them in a way that would serve the interests of the two friendly Muslim peoples.

The two sides also reviewed issues of mutual concern that affirm the safeguarding of international peace and security. [passage omitted]

President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan and the delegation accompanying him left Kuwait International Airport at 1530 this afternoon after a two-day official visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Turkmenistan's President Arrives in Doha

JN1612201792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 16 Dec (WAKH)—Saparmurad Niyazov, president of the Republic of Turkmenistan, arrived in Doha this evening on a two-day visit to Qatar.

He was received at the airport by the Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Heir Apparent and Defense Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and a number of officials.

Confers With Amir

JN1712123092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 17 Dec (WAKH)—A session of official talks took place today between the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that talks dealt with means to bolster and develop bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in various political, economic, and commercial fields. International developments and issues of common interest were also reviewed.

Saudi Arabia

Senegalese President Arrives in Jeddah

LD1412230892 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, the president of the Republic of Senegal, arrived in Jeddah at midnight on an official visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, welcomed his excellency at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. Following a brief rest at the airport, the custodian of the two holy mosques accompanied his important guest to his excellency's residence.

Hobbs Talks With Fahd

LD1513235392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2222 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 15 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Abdou Diouf of the Republic of Senegal held a meeting this evening at the Royal court in al-Salam palace. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1528 GMT in a Jeddah-datelined report on 15 December transmits the following on Diouf's talks earlier the same day: "Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that during his meeting today with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, the Kingdom and Senegal, and current international issues that concern the two countries were discussed. In a statement to Senegalese television and SPA after the meeting, his highness said that, on the basis of the two countries' concerns, an assessment was made of the prevailing situation since the extraordinary sixth conference of the Islamic Conference Organization, held in Jeddah recently to discuss the situations and developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia.

"His Highness welcomed President Abdou Diouf's visit to the Kingdom and said: We are happy about His Excellency's presence among us in his second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."]

Yemen

'Arafat Arrives, Notes Situation in Territories

JN1612083192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Sanaa at dawn today on an official visit to our country. During the visit, he will meet with the political leadership to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

On arrival, brother Abu-'Ammar made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in which he renewed the call for convening an emergency Arab meeting at the foreign ministers' level, if the Tunis meeting was not possible.

The Palestinian president stated the importance of holding the meeting as soon as possible, especially since the eighth round of negotiations will end after two days and the new U.S. Administration will take office in a few weeks.

He noted that no progress at all has been made on the Palestinian track in the eighth round and that the negotiations have achieved nothing. He underlined Zionist intransigence, despite the letter of invitation and the guarantees given to the Palestinian leadership via the U.S. Administration, especially with regard to the issue of holy Jerusalem and the Zionist side's attempt to exclude this serious issue which relates to the third holiest shrine.

Brother Abu-'Ammar explained that the Zionist entity still insists on an iron-fist policy against the Palestinian people and their holy places and land, seeing the deteriorating situation in the West Bank after sealing it off, along with the Gaza Strip.

Concluding his statement, brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat said: Is it logical that 1 million Palestinians should remain under military rule and be prevented from free movement without the world lifting a finger? If the world does not act, then it is better for the Arab and Islamic world to do something to face the injustice and oppression being suffered by their brothers in Arabism and Islam.

Brother Abu-'Ammar was received by brother Dr. 'Abdallah Hasayn Barakat, member of the Consultative Council; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine; a representative of the Presidency Protocol Office; and several Palestinian leaders in Sanaa.

Confers With Council Vice Chairman

JN1612180892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid received brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, today. They discussed developments in the Palestine question in light of the results of the peace talks. They also reviewed the situation both in the Arab and international arenas, as well as some issues of mutual interest.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat briefed Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid on developments in the Palestinian situation in light of the escalating brave intifadah [words indistinct].

During the meeting, the Presidential Council vice chairman reiterated our country's firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their full legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Message to Presidential Council

JN1612114892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The brother prime minister has addressed a message to the Presidential Council, dealing with several economic and political issues, and with the Council of Minister's performance over the past period and the measures it adopted to tackle the current economic problems. The following is a recording of the message:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, brother Presidential Council vice chairman and members:

Greetings. First I would like to greet you and wish you success. The Council of Ministers has read your letter dated 24 November 1992 following the results of the expanded meeting, which were included in the political statement and the constitutional declaration issued on 14 November 1992, as well as your second letter to the government dated 2 December 1992. In light of the importance of the issues included in these documents under the delicate circumstances our country and society are experiencing, the Council of Ministers held four continuous meetings to discuss them: three regular meetings, and one extraordinary meeting. [passage omitted]

Brother president, vice president, and Presidential Council members: As you are aware, there have been causes, factors, and circumstances that prevented the completion of the tasks defined in the government's 1992 general program, and the tasks and measures included in the 1992 budget, and which led to the current economic and financial situations. The year 1992 witnessed serious political and security disturbances and practices that have nothing to do with democracy. Democracy is a both right and duty. Also, there have been many political parties and organizations along with their papers and magazines. At the same time, the weakness of the state unity, on the level of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has weakened the government's ability to implement the law on political parties and organizations, and the press law. The deterioration of the economic situation reached a climax when differences between the GPC and the YSP contributed toward splitting political parties and organizations into two groups, each of which held its own congress. This is a direct reflection of the differences between the GPC and the YSP, and not a true expression of the right to pluralism. This has weakened national unity, which constitutes the rock on which the conspiracies of the enemies of the Yemeni 26 September Revolution and the 14 October Revolution and the republican system have foundered, which constituted the Yemeni horse our people rode to achieve unity, and on which our people have always wagered and are still wagering to safeguard unity, bolster the march of democracy, and build the modern Yemeni state, the state of law and order. All these developments have reflected negatively on the government's performance, and have weakened its movement and ability to pursue the implementation of its plans and programs.

Dear chairman and members of the Presidential Council: I can firmly say in the name of Yemen, with all confidence in a promising bright future under the flag of the Republic of Yemen, that 1992, which is about to end and become part of the past, was the year of political crisis and instability, the effects and negative repercussions of which managed to shake the confidence and unity of those who, with their free and integrated will, have united Yemen following long years of disunity. The relationship between the GPC and the YSP constitutes the major indicator of the general political climate in the country. The unstable and tense relationship between them has reflected negatively on the political climate. Consequently, this has led to the fragmentation of the positions of the political parties and organizations, popular organizations, and trade unions. These situations have, objectively, paved the best grounds for erroneous actions and behaviors and for all the damage these could cause to the economic, social, and political situation.

The big question posed by Yemen, with all its old people, youths, children, men, and women, is: Will the historic Yemeni leadership, which willingly created Yemen's new dawn on 22 May 1990, enter the year 1993 with the spirit of fragmentation and split resulting from mistrust and the retreat of unity of will? Will it sacrifice the future of Yemen it defined on 22 May 1990?

Dear brothers chairman and members of the Presidential Council: The regrettable incidents in some Yemeni cities over the past days provide proof of what I have pointed to, and constitute an alarm for all sides. Regarding the sharp increase in prices and the devaluation of the purchasing power of the national currency, and in order to confront the negative effects and pressure on living standards, the Council of Ministers discussed the situation and concluded that the major means to tackle this situation was to approve what we refused to approve during the joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers at the end of 1991, and to implement the decisions that were not implemented as a result of the political atmosphere that prevailed in 1992. Based on this, the Council of Ministers has approved several decisions regarding the developments of these situations. These decisions are attached to this letter.

Finally, the Council of Ministers looks forward to holding a joint meeting with the Presidential Council to discuss the current situation and reach agreement on the means to tackle it which would bolster the unity of leadership. The Council of Ministers believes that without national accord among the two partners—the GPC and the YSP—and all the political forces at this serious juncture in our Yemeni people's life, it will find itself unable to continue to assume its national responsibilities. This is so that our people and their political leadership can enter 1993—the year of practical embodiment of democratic practice and the laying of the

foundations and bases of parliamentary life based on political pluralism and the peaceful rotation of power—and bid farewell to 1992, which in a few days will become part of history, and history has a strong memory, the memory of the people. Yemen will continue to be united, and will forge its bright future despite all challenges. From God we seek success.

With all respect.

[Signed] The prime minister

Minister Expects 'Prosperous' Economic Future

JN1712103892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Hasan al-Husayni in Paris carried within "Today's Guest" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] What is the purpose of your visit to France?

[Al-Iryani] I have come to the French capital to attend the Arab World Institute's round table seminar on democracy and economic development in the Republic of Yemen. The seminar is held within the framework of a culture and art program organized by the Arab World Institute in Paris which started in October and will end in January. The program also includes an exhibition of Yemeni architecture throughout the ages and an exhibition of Yemeni art. Today, there will be a round table seminar, which will be attended by people with interest in the Republic of Yemen and a number of professors from Sanaa and Aden universities and officials in charge of information and culture in Sana.

[Al-Husayni] Will you meet with any French official during your visit to Paris?

[Al-Iryani] Yes. I will meet tomorrow with Mr. Kiejman, minister delegate for foreign affairs. We will discuss Yemeni-French relations and developments in the region. The Yemeni-French relations are improving constantly. Also, the Yemeni-French committee will meet this week under the ministers of transport. My meeting with Mr. Kiejman concerns political issues, the Yemeni-French relations, and cooperation between the two countries, both on bilateral and regional levels.

[Al-Husayni] What progress has been made by the committees for border demarcation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia? Do you expect to reach an agreement similar to the one Yemen reached with Oman?

[Al-Iryani] The joint technical committee has met in Sanaa and will resume its meetings next month in Riyadh. Undoubtedly, the meetings that have been held thus far have succeeded in bringing about a common understanding on the principles of negotiations between the two countries. Certainly, these negotiations will, God willing, end with an agreement acceptable to both countries.

[Al-Husayni] Were the recent disturbances in Yemen caused by the existing economic conditions, or are there certain political forces seeking to take advantage of the economic burdens to obstruct the march of unity?

[Al-Iryani] Whenever there are riots in any part of the world, the economic problems cannot be overlooked. But, in Yemen, where there is political pluralism and where rival parties have different objectives, I believe there were political forces that have taken advantage of the circumstances.

[Al-Husayni] The opposition parties have demanded that the people behind the riots be exposed. They have also accused the government and the leaders of the two ruling parties of planning the economic crisis to postpone, or even cancel, the elections. How true are these accusations?

[Al-Iryani] In fact, if the opposition parties are really saying this, then I am very sorry to see them thinking in such a shallow way. Having said that, I think they as an opposition have the right to say what they want. I am certain that what has been said was only meant for propaganda objectives and those who have said it know that it is untrue.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think that differences between the Yemeni parties will affect the march of unity? Do they have any connection to the deterioration of the situation in Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] In fact, the Yemeni experience in pluralism is still young. The same applies to our experience in opposition and how we understand it, how do we deal with the existing government, and how does the existing government deal with the opposition. Certainly, this state of affairs may cause disturbances, a confused way of thinking, and concern on the part of some people. This is a price which democracy in any country will have to pay when it starts dealing with pluralism, press freedom, and the freedom to establish parties. This will undoubtedly affect the social reality, but I am very certain that it will not affect in any way the march of Yemeni unity and the progress toward democracy.

[Al-Husayni] How do you assess the current economic conditions in Yemen, especially after the disturbances which started because of deteriorating living conditions?

[Al-Iryani] Undoubtedly, the economy in the Republic of Yemen is going through a difficult phase which cannot be ignored. I am certain, however, that the future Yemeni economy is a strong and prosperous one. The existing conditions now are due primarily to the consequences of the Gulf crisis, which started more than two years ago. The Republic of Yemen was looked at in an unfriendly way as a result of unfounded allegations and accusations. Some people have begun to like dealing with

Yemen in such a manner, maybe because of other objectives, and not because of its position during the Gulf crisis.

[Al-Hamyni] You have said that Yemen's economic future will be prosperous. What makes you so optimistic?

[Al-Iryani] First, the Yemeni unity has created an economic melting pot which doubled Yemen's economic resources, both on the domestic and foreign levels. Second, there are major oil findings, some of which were announced, while others will be announced in the future. Third, there are huge gas reserves, probably the biggest or second biggest in the Arabian Peninsula. Fourth, the agricultural activity which the Yemeni people started after the rainfall has proved that every square inch or meter will not be left uncultivated. A people with such enthusiasm and a land with such an ability to offer means that no one, be he Yemeni or non-Yemeni, can deny that Yemen's future will be prosperous.

Coup Attempt, Execution of Senior Officers Reported

LD1712013292 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Sources from the Iraqi opposition in the Austrian capital of Vienna have confirmed that another coup attempt recently took place in Baghdad against the dictatorial regime in Iraq.

A statement released by the information bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] in the Austrian capital stressed that the Iraqi regime had executed by firing squad a number of senior officers in the Republican Guard, some of whom had been decorated with orders and insignia for bravery, on the charge of attempting an armed coup to overthrow the leader of the Iraqi regime.

They were arrested by the regime recently.

The SAIRI statement said that three of the officers who took part in the coup attempt, including a staff brigadier general, were able to escape from the special security services and military intelligence, which made the Iraqi regime resort to arresting their families.

Citing its sources inside Iraq, the SAIRI statement said that the Baghdad regime has issued strict orders for the arrest of the escaped officers and for them to be taken dead or alive.

The statement stressed that, in the past few days, the Iraqi regime has moved three brigades of the Republican Guard to southern Iraq to be stationed in the marshland area in an attempt to move these forces away from Baghdad under cover of getting rid of Iraqi citizens in the marshland area.

Saddam Aide Executed for Soviet, E. German Ties

PM1612100092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Ordered Al-Barrak's Execution Because of His Link With Soviets and Germans"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—Western diplomatic sources in London yesterday confirmed the execution of Dr. Fadil al-Barrak, chief of Iraqi intelligence between 1983 and 1988, who until his execution was adviser to President Saddam Husayn.

The sources noted that the sentence was carried out against Al-Barrak—who was from Tikrit, birthplace of the Iraqi president—last September, on charges of dealing with the intelligence organs in the former Soviet Union and East Germany and of disclosing secrets to them.

The sources revealed that Saddam found out about the link between Al-Barrak, who was very close to him, and the Soviet and East German organs by chance, as he was informed of the matter by an Arab leader who had read documents belonging to the Soviet intelligence organ KGB which were in the possession of another Arab leader.

The Arab leader who obtained the documents asked the other leader, who has a relationship with Saddam, to show the documents to the Iraqi president "in order for him to know what is happening there." And indeed the documents were delivered to Saddam, who summoned Al-Barrak, who later admitted what was attributed to him. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Claims Imam, Family Executed in Samarrah

LD1712113292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Friday imam of the Iraqi city of Samarrah and members of his family have been executed by the forces of Saddam's regime. Samarrah's Friday imam declared it is religiously unlawful [haram] to display Saddam's portrait inside that city's Friday mosque.

According to the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], because of these remarks the security forces of Saddam's regime arrested the Friday imam and members of his family in the early days of this current Christian month and executed them.

Mujahidin Clash With Regime Forces 22 Nov

NC1612221292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Groups of our heroic mujahidin clashed with the forces of the defeated Saddamist regime on 22 November in al-Hashiriyah area in Maysan Governorate. During the one-hour clash, the mujahidin used various types of weapons and routed the mercenaries who withdrew after suffering the following losses: The destruction of two of their nine vehicles; the death of the party official of the Scouts Battalion of the 4th Corps; the capture of 13 mercenaries and the injury of 20 others; the seizure of 10 rifles and an RPG-7 launcher; and the death of 18 mercenaries. The following dead mercenaries have been identified from their ID's: 1st Lieutenant 'Isam Muhammad; 1st Lt. Jum'ah; Sergeant Rafiq Hamid; Yasin 'Awad Sabah; Hatim Muhammad; Sadiq Kazim 'Ali; Nasir Jasim Muhammad; Sadiq Karim; and Qasim Adil Muhammad.

Aziz Says Iraqis Determined To Safeguard Unity

JN1412182392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the Iraqi people under struggler President Saddam Husayn are now more determined than ever to continue their march of progress and development and make immense sacrifices to defend their unity and free will.

In remarks made during the second morning session of the 14th general congress of the General Union of Iraqi Women, 'Aziz added that the Iraqis' allegiance to their leader is primarily prompted by their profound sentiments regarding the accomplishments his excellency the leader president has scored for them over the past 25 years in terms of the splendid achievements made along the way to renaissance and progress.

Tariq 'Aziz went on to say: The Security Council, which passed Resolution 687, notwithstanding the arbitrariness and unfairness marking this resolution, has failed to comply with the text of this very resolution, which requires it to seriously examine the possible lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The RCC member indicated that when forcefully confronted with the facts pertaining to Iraq's compliance with its resolutions, the council evades compliance with the text of the very resolution it issued. This, he added, confirms that this council is calling into question the legal basis for its very resolution. Consequently, it is the wish of influential members of the council which dictate the council's policy, rather than its resolutions and the terms of reference enshrined in the UN Charter, which they have repeatedly said form the legal basis for this resolution and other resolutions.

The deputy prime minister noted that the enforcement by the United States and its allies of an air exclusion zone in the northern governorates last year as well as the no-fly zone they have recently enforced in southern Iraq under various pretexts were based on a hostile scheme and a Western political campaign aimed at destabilizing the situation in Iraq to pave the way for restoring Western colonialist influence and plundering the Iraqi people's resources.

Tariq 'Aziz urged the women participating in the congress to struggle against political hypocrisy, to expose double standards, to bare the selective approach being used by colonialist states, and to create a world public opinion supportive of Arab causes, foremost among which being the unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people to arrest their quest for development and progress and prevent them from aiding their brethren in the Islamic world and the third world.

Syrian's Remarks on Damascus Declaration Viewed

JN1612190392 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1637 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: When the information minister of the Syrian regime told the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM that the Damascus Declaration binding the Egyptian, Syrian, and Gulf Cooperation Council rulers together died in its security and economic aspects, he was not putting forward anything new. As a matter of fact, the entry of U.S. and allied troops into the Kuwait area shows that the Kuwaiti ruler did not want any substitute for the U.S. troops and their British and French allies. Indeed, had it not been for the encouragement of the United States and its Arab allies, he would not have dared to conspire against Iraq.

Given all that has happened, there is nothing that could prevent Bush from becoming a new idol to be worshipped by the agents of petrodollars, and the Zionist enemy from being deemed an ally, because it has not harmed Kuwait, as one of the slaves of petrodollars put it. Now, there is no shame that could prevent him from acknowledging in private what he announced publicly. The Kuwaiti ruler said that he could not think of a future arrangement excluding the protection provided by foreigners. Whoever thinks of himself as a smart person who knows the rules of the game should have known that he would not even obtain crumbs, and that he would not reap any benefit by the signing of a Declaration, which this ruler will soon abandon and relinquish. The Kuwaiti ruler was compelled to sign this Declaration. He did not have a true desire to commit himself to this Declaration. However, the circumstances of the anti-Iraq conspiracy and aggression compelled him to endorse this Declaration.

Similarly, whoever brags about [words indistinct] and political shrewdness should not be surprised by the state of affairs plaguing the Damascus Declaration, and find himself from time to time compelled to engage in a process of exposed deception [words indistinct]. Did these parties really believe that the Kuwait area ruler could squander his oil riches on Egypt and Syria, and forget about the London Zoo? Since when have the priorities of the Kuwaiti ruler called for the investment of petrodollars in Arab countries? Some people might argue that there were actual Kuwaiti investments in Arab countries. Why then this Declaration? When confronted with this reasoning, we cannot but accept this statement. However, what must be made clear is that this negligible investment is inflicting immense damage on values, since it is seriously contributing to corrupting Arabs. Besides, this negligible investment is spreading weird ways of life, the most marked manifestation of which is the loss of values [words indistinct].

As the information minister of the Syrian regime said, the Damascus Declaration came about under extraordinary circumstances; namely, the circumstances during which the anti-Iraq conspiracies exacerbated. The endorsement of this Declaration by the Syrian and Egyptian regimes came about as a response to Bush's wishes and as a submission to his orders, if not to [word indistinct] the imperialist aggression scheme, as it transpired later. Consequently, these two regimes must accept emerging with nothing in their hands. This is their tragedy. They should have realized in advance that they would reap nothing.

Court To Rule on Order To Expel Fundamentalists

Cabinet Takes Action

TA1712000992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Karmela Menashe]

[Text] The cabinet yesterday decided that in view of the murderous acts of terror aimed at harming Israeli residents and at sabotaging the peace efforts, steps must be taken against the Islamic fundamentalist murder and terror organizations, which are the enemies of peace. In view of the state of emergency and in order to guarantee public safety and to protect the citizens, the cabinet has authorized the prime minister and defense minister to permit the Army commanders of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to issue orders, in accordance with immediate and vital security needs, for the immediate temporary expulsion of instigators living in the region who by their actions endanger lives or incite to such activities. It was decided that the temporary expulsions will be decided on by the military commanders and that the expulsions will not last longer than two years. Those expelled will be permitted to appeal the decision within 60 days to a special committee through a relative or an attorney, according to the rules specified in the expulsion orders.

In the wake of the decision, actions were taken last night to expel some 418 members of the fundamentalist Islamic organizations Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. Following an appeal to the High Court of Justice, an injunction was issued ordering a delay in the implementation of the expulsions until the appeal is considered. As a result, the deportations have been held up.

The government announcement said that the cabinet declares its unceasing devotion to the peace efforts and that it intends to continue without interruption the negotiations now being conducted in Washington. The government regards peace as a central plank in its policy. Despite its peace efforts, the government stated that it will fight the various forms of terrorism until the bitter end and will strike at those who harm Israelis and the peace efforts.

Over the past 24 hours, the numbers calling for implementing deportations as a punishment against Hamas activists and other extremists in the territories have grown. It is believed that in order to serve as a real deterrence, tough measures must be taken. Expulsion has always been considered the most effective deterrent, but due to the complexity of implementing the deportations and the extensive legal procedures, which last for months, many have claimed that the punishment loses its effectiveness. The decision to implement overnight deportations is legally problematic. The High Court of Justice has in the past expressed its reservations about such moves.

Court Considers Blocking Deportations

TA1712061392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Three judges from the High Court of Justice are currently deliberating whether to permit the deportation of 418 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists or to accept the appeals of human rights groups to prevent the expulsion. The presiding judges are Judge Mo'ir Shamgar, the president of the Supreme Court, and Judges Barak and Eylon. Our correspondent Mira Aronshon reports that the debate began approximately two hours ago and that the judges have now left for consultations.

Attorney General Yosef Harish, in an unusually appearance before the High Court of Justice, said that the government, with the abstention of Justice Minister Libai, had decided that in light of the state of war emergency, extreme measures were called for. Therefore, new temporary deportation orders had been issued. Attorney General Harish promised the High Court that a judicial review of the orders would be carried out after the deportations have taken place, through appeals which the deportees' families would be permitted to lodge for 60 days. Attorney General Harish told the judges that the deportations were being carried out according to a general decree, but each deportee would receive an individual order prior to his deportation. Each deportee would also be given $50 dollars for basic needs during the first few days.

The judicial proceedings began last night at approximately 2000 [1800 GMT]. Attorney Le'a Tsemel learned about the government's intention to deport the activists and submitted appeals on the behalf of some of the prospective deportees. She was joined later by Attorneys Andre Rosental and Yehoshu'a Shulman, who represent the civil rights association. Tsemel said that buses with 400 candidates for deportation had already reached the border and were waiting for the High Court's decision. Early this morning, Judge Aharon Barak issued an interim injunction prohibiting the deportation of 22 activists. The appellants claimed that the deportation was being carried out in an illegal manner and under cover of darkness. [passage omitted]

Court Summons Nine Judges

TA1712083392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] A special panel of seven judges from the High Court of Justice will convene in one hour to continue deliberations on the appeal against the deportation of over 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists. Our correspondent Mira Aronshon reports that after approximately two and a half hours of consultations, Judge Mo'ir Shamgar, the president of the Supreme Court, announced that he has

summoned Judges Or, Goldberg, Mazza, and Netanyahu to join him and Judges Barag and Elon when deliberations resume.

Shamgar instructed the chief of staff or his deputy to appear before the special court and explain why the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is demanding the deportations. The hearing will be held in open court, after the appellants opposed the IDF's request for an in camera hearing. The appellants' attorneys will be permitted to argue their case before the seven judges. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the chief of staff will attend the hearing.

Chief of Staff Defends Deportation

TA1712121192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Barag, the chief of staff, told the High Court of Justice that it is vital to deport the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists because if they are not expelled, human life will be endangered. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 17 December carries a similar report by Jack Kazanoff, adding that Barag "told the court that the country, the defense forces, face an emergency. He read out a very long list of deadly attacks by the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in which soldiers and civilians were killed. He pointed out that while 29 soldiers were killed in the past five years, six have been killed in the past week. This is a completely new situation, he says; it is an escalation, it is something that the Army, the security forces, are under obligations to do something about, and here he stressed an obligation to the government, an obligation to the public, an obligation to the Palestinians who are murdered by the Islamic Jihad."]

He said had these deportations called for regular deportation orders, the procedure would have taken too long and speedy process would not have been possible. He stressed that it is a temporary and reversible procedure and is justified even at the price of marginal harm should there be a mistake in implementing the deportations. Such a mistake can be rectified in an appeal to an appeals committee, which has the power to overrule the order.

Detention camps are also ineffective because the detainees there exploit the opportunity to study modus operandi and to organize. [Qol Yisra'el in English adds that Barag "gave a huge figure of nearly 100,000 Palestinians who have been in the various detention centers and prisons since the start of the intifadah, and he says that there are now about 14,000 in Army prisons and in the civil prisons. He says it is like a training school. He says some of the people you arrest, some of the people with whom you have clashes, have been in these prisons two or three times, and they simply learn to be better terrorists."]

Likud To Appeal Decision

TA1712090892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpts] A team of Likud legal experts, headed by Knesset Member [MK] David Menu', has declared that it will appeal to the High Court of Justice today against deporting the terrorists for a fixed period. MK Menu' asserted that the government had decided on deportations for a fixed period out of fear that the High Court of Justice would reject deportations of unlimited duration. Therefore, Menu' said, he wants to put the issue before the Supreme Court. The Likud faction said it supports the government's decision; however, Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatsav called on the government to deport the terrorists for an unlimited period, because deportations have proved to be a crucial, effective, and deterrent measure. Qatsav said it is better to have terrorists roaming free across the border rather than engaging in terror attacks or sitting in Israeli prisons.

Labor MK Avigdor Qahalani praised the government's decision to deport the terrorists. He said it is the right step at the right time. Qahalani added that he is certain that the Israeli people support the government's action.

Rehav'am Ze'evi, the head of the Moledet faction, said he would have congratulated the government on its decision were he convinced that this is its true intention; however, Ze'evi said, he fears that the government merely found it convenient to decide on deportations and then not carry them out as a result of the High Court of Justice ruling. Rehav'am Ze'evi asserted that the candidates for deportation should be denied the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

MK Zevulun Hammer praised the government's decision on behalf of the National Religious Party [NRP]. Hammer said that no terrorist organization should be granted immunity. He said that if need be, the NRP would support the government's demand to change the legislation on the issue of deportations. [passage omitted covered in editors note]

Reacting to the statements of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and Darzvelish factions, MK Yossi Katz, the acting chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, said that they must understand that the steps decided upon by the government were necessary in order to continue the political negotiations. The steps taken, he said, are directed exclusively against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who were actively involved in sedition and organizing operations.

Officials React to Cabinet Deportation Decision

Minister Explains Decision

TA1712092592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Left-wing Meretz ministers voted in favor of the expulsions. A short while ago, one of them, Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tsaban, explained the decision to reporter David Ze'evi:

[Begin recording] [Trabun] It was after some hesitations, not only of myself but of some other members of the cabinet, but, on the one hand, we decided to expel these activists of the most extremist organizations in the territories for a limited period—and we use a special term which is not similar to deportation—and, on the other hand, we had to take into consideration the fact that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the [Islamic] Jihad are now organizing themselves day after day for killings and for many other activities which have only one aim—to destroy the peace process. And we, as people who fought in the past very strongly and are fighting in the present very strongly to further the peace process and to pave the way from the obstacles, we think that these activities, these killings, these murders, these provocations of the fundamentalists must be removed from the way to peace.

[Ze'ev] But Hanan 'Ashrawi in Washington says the Palestinians won't show up today at the peace talks if the deportations or the expulsions go ahead.

[Trabun] I can understand that in the existing situation such reaction could be expected, but all of us know that there is a very, very sharp fight between the national, central stream that Hanan 'Ashrawi is representing, which are willing to negotiate with Israel to establish peace between the two people, and those Hamas and Jihad fanatics who are doing whatever they are able to do in order to destroy and to fight against the central stream in the national Palestinian movement.

[Ze'ev] Do you think soldiers should have a freer hand in operating in the territories?

[Trabun] No, absolutely not. So this is one of the reasons—because we are insisting on not changing the norms and not enabling an easy finger to shoot whenever it is convenient to do it—this is the reason that we support the move the cabinet took yesterday. [end recording]

Expulsion Decision Detailed

TA1712065892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0585 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Text] In yesterday's cabinet meeting, all the ministers supported Police Minister Moshe Shahal's motion on deporting or distancing [barhkaqa] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists for up to two years and permitting the families to appeal the decision. All the ministers who have a legal education, including the Meretz ministers, supported the proposal. Justice Minister David Libai's tended to back it, but finally abstained because he feared that the decision would not be upheld if appealed to the High Court of Justice. Attorney General Yosef Harish is the one who drafted that clause in the government decision. The following considerations were taken into account in making the decision: the need to oppose Hamas terrorism, including its organizational infrastructure; the calls from the territories, including from Arabs, to eradicate it; and the concern about the angry mood of the Israeli public.

There have been hints from the United States that drastic measures would be received with understanding, although since these are the administration's twilight days, it has been taken into account that there might be unexpected reactions.

It is believed that the Arab states, or at least some of them, are interested in crushing Hamas, although they will protest the move. Fatah is in a bind. On the one hand, it is also interested in eliminating Hamas, its biggest competitor, but on the other hand, it will have no option but to cry foul.

The major concern is that Hamas will now win legitimacy, as well as status and credit. Whatever happens, it seems that the negotiations in Washington will be suspended for an unlimited period. President-elect Clinton will have to make some major move in order to reconvene the sides. Israel initiated a large-scale action, but the repercussions will be known only in the coming days or weeks.

Shamir on U.S. Reaction

TA1712102892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Yitzhaq Shamir by Razi Barqay; from the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning to former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Barqay] How do you view the deportation step taken by the Israeli Government?

[Shamir] I wholeheartedly support this move. If they manage to override the reservations of the High Court justices and pull it off, it will constitute a step in the right direction. It is still not enough, however, and additional steps will have to be taken. This should not be limited to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people, but should apply to anyone who carries out terror activities. Nevertheless, I support this step.

[Barqay] You said everyone who perpetrates terror activities, but we are also talking about what could be called the ideological base. If we start deporting everyone, the numbers could run into the thousands.

[Shamir] Everything is linked here. Each element supports the other. This is an organization in which every member has his assigned role, but they all share a joint purpose. They all work to achieve the same goal—the destruction of the people of Israel in their state.

[Barqay] So you make no differentiation between Hamas and the PLO, for example?

[Shamir] No, none at all. There should be no distinction between them; however, sometimes, out of tactical considerations, one must do what is more convenient, suitable, or beneficial.

[Barqay] Mr. Shamir, do you not fear a very severe reaction from the Americans, for example, to what is happening here?

[Shamir] There may very well be a sharp reaction, but they should understand what is happening in this country and see how the Arabs—all the Arabs, I would say, even though here and there we find those who ostensibly have reservations—relate to the entire issue of human life. Let them, at least once, not ignore this fact.

[Barqay] So you have no problems with what you called the reservations of the High Court of Justice?

[Shamir] I obviously have no problems. I would say that if it were possible to find a way to keep the High Court from intervening in such issues, it would be best; however, this is the situation in Israel, and it has always hindered us in carrying out such steps. If it turns out to be possible now, I will be pleased.

[Barqay] You sound slightly angry at our judicial system.

[Shamir] Not at all; everyone has his job.

[Barqay] In what way could we do without the Supreme Court? By changing our laws?

[Shamir] I do not know; perhaps laws could be changed. There are issues the Supreme Court intervenes in, and other issues it leaves alone. I am no legal expert, but it would be better if everyone handled their own business and the issues they are most qualified to handle.

[Barqay] In light of the government's decision, is Ari'el Sharon's proposal of 15 December on forming a national emergency government more realistic?

[Shamir] There is no connection. We can agree on one step, but there remain many problems facing the government. For example, I attribute great significance to the political issue and to the negotiations aimed at achieving a political resolution of the conflict. This will decide our future, and it is not merely a question of terror. There are also other issues, however, and everything must be discussed.

[Barqay] So it is not realistic in your opinion?

[Shamir] At this time, I do not consider it practical.

Right-, Left-Wing Comment

TA1712071092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Likud has expressed support for the government's actions. Likud Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan welcomed the government's decision and called on it to announce that this was not a one-time step and that additional deportations will be carried out if the terror attacks continue. He called for deporting residents of the territories to Jordan, which he said is the Palestinian state. He also demanded a change in the law so that deportees will only be permitted to appeal to the High Court of Justice after the deportations have taken place.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Tzomet MK Moshe Peled visited the prime minister's bureau last night, shook Yitzhaq Rabin's hand, and congratulated him on the decision. Nevertheless, Peled said that the cabinet is made up of a bunch of incompetents and that the decision was too late and too slow in coming. Peled said that the government should have carried out deportations a long time ago.

A spokesman for the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip noted that the government's decision was not on deporting but rather on detaining [harkhaqa] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The decision, he said, is a ray of light in a time of darkness. In his opinion, the government should call a halt to the peace talks. The spokesman explained that the government must not differentiate between Hamas and Fatah.

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction announced that it will reconsider remaining in the bloc that provides the coalition with a safety net against a right-wing majority, due to what it described as the serious change in the government's policy. In its statement, the HADASH faction condemned the cabinet decision and said it saw it as collective punishment and capitulation to the right wing. HADASH said that the deportations will not help eliminate the terror attacks and might even derail the peace talks.

The Arab Democratic Party, led by MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, also warned that it may reconsider its support of the government if the deportations are implemented. Darawshah said that his party is adamantly opposed to mass deportations and called on the government to revoke its decision which harms the peace process and constitutes a blow to human values.

The Peace Now movement said that the effectiveness of deportations, especially mass deportations, has always been doubtful. Tonight's step cannot substitute for ongoing military action against terrorism. The Peace Now spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman that the only way to weaken the Hamas extremists and terror squads is to launch a dialogue immediately with the authorized representatives of the Palestinian people—the heads of the Palestine Council and the PLO—to speed up the talks and to raise their level.

Residents of the territories were amazed by the government's decision to deport the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, one of the leaders of the

Palestinians in the territories, told our correspondent Moti Amir that if this government employs mass deportations and an iron-fist policy, the peace process will suffer. Abu-'Ayyash said that the deportation of the Hamas activists will arouse the sympathy of all political groups, both those who support the political process and those who oppose it.

[In a related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 17 December, Jamils Kan'an from Nablus, who is a member of the Palestinian delegation, rejects the claims made by cabinet ministers that their decision was meant to serve the cause of those supporting the peace process. Kan'an says: "I think that this step is a very serious one, which puts the entire negotiations process with Israel at risk. I think this will disrupt the whole process. I think this is the wrong step to take now." Asked whether the deportations will not strengthen the status of those Palestinians who support the peace process, Kan'an replies: "This is an internal issue for the Palestinian people to work out and not something in which Israel should intervene. If these people did something against Israel, I do not think that they should be punished by being deported from the territories. We have always been opposed to deportations and have made great efforts to fight it, because deportation constitutes a grave punishment against the man and his family and a violation of the Geneva Convention."]

Police Affairs Minister Comments

TA171208Z192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal by Tzvi Lidor—live]

[Text] [Lidor] Good morning to Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Lidor] I understand, sir, that it was your proposal that was endorsed by the cabinet, and as we just heard in Yo'el Nir's report, all considerations were taken into account, including the detrimental effect this might possibly have on the peace process.

[Shahal] Our immediate considerations were to guarantee the security of Israeli citizens by taking steps that would prevent terror attacks and murders—as well as activities by those who incite, preach, and organize these attacks—by members of the groups we sought to distance from the State of Israel's territory. These were the main questions with which we dealt. Other, more indirect issues, such as the fear and slaughter these radical Muslim groups wreak among their Arab brethren in order to foil any possibility of peace negotiations, are, I would say, a by-product of terror employed with these aims in mind. Our main purpose and aim, however, was to guarantee the safety and security of Israeli citizens.

[Lidor] Sir, deportation is a very strong deterrent. This was the cabinet's argument in reaching this decision, but it also leads to ferment, and there have been numerous such examples in the past. Was this taken into consideration?

[Shahal] The existing alternatives are as follows: We must fight against terror, we must guarantee that this practice of committing murders and kidnappings on Israeli roads—a method that has come into use over the past 15 years, and there were numerous kidnappings... [pause] This kidnapping constitutes an exacerbation, because there was an attempt to use it for leverage in negotiations. The declarations we heard from Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesmen in Jordan and Lebanon, who spoke of a policy and about their intention to continue these slaughters, obligated the government to take different action than in the past.

I think this decision was unanimously supported by all the cabinet ministers. We mean every word we said. Our duty is to guarantee the safety of Israeli citizens and to fight those elements who speak openly and take clandestine action to slaughter Jews and Arabs in order to impose terror throughout the entire land of Israel.

[Lidor] But this is the first time that such a huge number of people are being deported. As part of the criticism leveled during last night's High Court hearings, there was someone who even described it as the beginning of a transfer.

[Shahal] Absolutely no way—this was not some arbitrary decision. Perhaps this is an opportunity to discuss all these conventional conversions people latch on to. There is no intention here to carry out mass deportations. This is an effort to monitor people who make up the organizational framework of terror activity. We were very careful. We promised that anyone who was mistakenly included in the list, perhaps only because someone turned him in, will have the opportunity to appeal even after he is no longer on Israeli territory. All this came within the framework of a very detailed and careful examination. We are not talking about transfer or about mass deportations. We are talking about a security step intended to prevent the kind of terror attacks we have recently witnessed and to achieve additional goals. Anyone who has witnessed the public's statements or has listened to the family of the late Nissim Toledano or the people who attended his funeral cannot close his ears and say he does not intend to take actions or steps in order to prevent the reoccurrence of such phenomenon. There is no question, therefore, of mass deportations. On the basis of surveillance, information, and very thorough investigations, we learned the elements that incite and operate the system of terrorist attacks and murders against people.

[Lidor] Thank you, Police Affairs Minister Moshe Shahal.

Further on Arrests in Anti-Hamas Campaign

TA1612170992

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 16 December reports that "the security forces today continued to detain Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Judaea and Samaria, and the number of detainees has reached more than 1,300. Our correspondent Meir Amir reports that those detained today include Shaykh Nazih Darbas from Tulkarm and about 20 Hamas members from Bethlehem. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in the large wave of detentions it is primarily people on the political and administrative levels, rather than the hard-core wanted people, who were caught."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 December on page A3 carries a detailed report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin on the detention of 1,200 Hamas activists in the territories on 14 December. The report says that in the Gaza Strip, 450 were detained and taken "to Qezi'ot Prison in the Negev, to so-called Anzar-2 Prison in the Gaza Strip, and to IDF interrogation facilities" while the 750 West Bank detainees "were taken to IDF detention facilities."

Several "prominent Hamas leaders" were among the detainees:

"—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a lecturer at the Gaza Strip Islamic College."

"—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, a Khan Yunus physician, who along with others had written the first Hamas leaflets and who had been held under administrative detention for two years.

"—REUTER correspondent Tahir Shomaysah from the Gaza Strip.

"—Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi from Nablus, an al-Aqsa preacher, who is believed to be one of the city's most powerful religious leaders.

"—Jenin's Islamic *waqf* head, Shaykh Muhammad Fu'ad Abu-Zayd.

"—Shaykh Riyad Rashid Hamad Walwil from Qalqilyah, the head of the city's charity committee.

"—Ziyad Shadid from Tulkarm, formerly the leader of the Islamic bloc at the Bir Zayt University.

"—Imams 'Umar al-Bulawi and Fathallah Sa'idi, both prominent leaders from Tulkarm."

The report adds that "the latest spate of arrests—the sixth since the beginning of the intifadah—brings the number of detained Hamas members to approximately 6,000."

Another report by Eytan Rabin on page A1 of the same issue of HA'ARETZ, adds that "the prominent Hamas leaders" detained on 14 December "will be held under administrative detention in Qezi'ot prison." According to the report, "the other detainees, who are believed to be field operatives, will be interrogated and charged with membership in a hostile organization." The report adds that "a large quantity of weapons, subversive material, and leaflets were seized in the 14 December operation."

Eytan Rabin adds: "It was learned yesterday that 11 Hamas fugitives, who had managed to escape to Egypt, were apprehended by the Egyptian authorities and are being interrogated."

Defense Establishment Plans 'To Eliminate' Hamas

TA1712095392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Over the past few days, the defense establishment has prepared proposals meant to eliminate Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories. A senior military source said that "the time has come to destroy the Hamas infrastructure once and for all, because if we do not do so, there will be chaos."

The following is the list of proposals:

—All the colleges, universities, schools, and kindergartens run by Hamas will be closed.

—An end will be put to Hamas' takeover of charities. Since 1986, the movement has taken control of the charity organizations and used them to channel funds to the territories. The defense establishment plans to close the associations based on emergency regulations and decrees to be issued by the officers of the various commands.

—The chambers of commerce in the territories, where Hamas is very powerful, will be disbanded and new elections will be held.

—The Association of Young Muslims in Jerusalem, identified with Hamas, will be closed.

—The activities of Islamic bodies that operate within communities by providing social and cultural services to the inhabitants of the territories will be restricted. These include sport and health associations.

—The activities of the Association of Religious Sages of Palestine, set up by Hamas, will be restricted. The association is considered primarily a political body, constituting a counterbalance to Fatah's political committees. It is headed by Shaykh Taysir al-Tamimi of Hebron.

—The activities of the humanitarian associations, which are a cover for Islamic associations, will be restricted.

Anti-Hamas Fight Now 'Top Priority'

TA1612154392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] A senior political source says that without dealing a blow to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the number of Palestinians who will want to talk peace with Israel will decrease. Therefore, the war against this organization takes top priority now.

It is assumed that the squad that murdered Nissim Toledano acted in an organized manner. Its members collected intelligence information before the kidnapping, distributed a manifesto, and photocopied Toledano's police card. The autopsy of Toledano's body indicates that he was murdered between 2300 [2100 GMT] Sunday night and 0300 [0100 GMT] early Monday morning. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police announced that Staff Sergeant Major Toledano was murdered by strangulation and stabbing. The investigation file was transferred to the Criminal Investigations Department.

King Discusses Peace Talks, Somalia With Bush

JN1712071392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. President George Bush in Washington last night. During the meeting, which lasted almost an hour, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the Middle East situation, the regional peace process, and developments in Somalia following the start of the UN relief operation.

In a statement after the meeting, the White House announced that His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President George Bush had emphasized during their talks the importance of achieving peace in the Middle East. The statement said that President Bush has welcomed Jordan's willingness to participate in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

In statements to reporters following the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn said he hoped that the Arab-Israeli Middle East peace talks would continue once President-elect Bill Clinton assumes office on 20 January 1993.

His Majesty King Husayn said that all the concerned parties in the region feel that these talks are an opportunity that should not be wasted.

King Comments on Talks

JN1712072592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. President George Bush at the White House last night and said he expected Middle East peace talks to continue once President-elect Bill Clinton takes office.

His majesty described the talks now underway in Washington as slow but steady and told reporters he did not believe the negotiations would come to an end when President Bush steps down on January the 20th.

While posing for photographs with President Bush in the oval office, the king said he thinks all the parties involved and engaged in the area feel that this is a chance and an opportunity that should not be lost.

Later, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater issued a statement saying the two leaders discussed the Middle East peace efforts and the situation in the Gulf.

Dispatch of Jordanian Troops to Somalia Urged

JN1312100892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Dec 92 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Toward Activating the Arab Role in Somalia"]

[Excerpts] After Somalia has been turned into an arena for broad international competition—or, rather, international hypocrisy—and after many Western capitals showed readiness to join the U.S.-led action to save the Somali people from their appalling ordeal, it is neither understandable nor acceptable for the Arabs, who should be more willing to help, to remain almost completely absent from this task, which is taking under an international cover on the pretext of providing urgent humanitarian needs.

It was hoped that the Arab League would be in the forefront of those calling for such an operation to rescue people starving to death. For their part, the Arab states should have moved, one way or another, to dispatch military forces to restore security and stability to Somalia and pave the way for any possible international relief work, especially after it recently became impossible to distribute relief aid, even the aid that arrived at Somali ports. [passage omitted]

As Arabs, Muslims, and Africans we feel that we have gravely neglected our duty toward doing something that could have curbed the foreign intervention in Somalia and alleviated the ordeal of the Somali people. We still hope, however to see more Arab troops being dispatched to the land of hunger, death, and drought, including troops from the Jordanian Arab Army, which has contributed to many ongoing salvation tasks in Croatia and Cambodia under the UN flag and within the framework of UN Security Council resolutions.

PFLP-General Command's Amman Office Closed

PM1612111392 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Dec 92 p 20

[Unattributed report: "Ahmad Jibril's Office in Amman Closed"]

[Text] Amman, AL-MAJALLAH—It has been learned from well-informed sources in Amman that Jordanian authorities have closed an office in Amman belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril, who has been residing in Damascus for a long time.

The sources said that the closure decision came after the involvement of the office's staff—nine of them—in publishing secret leaflets against the Jordanian regime. The leaflets include a call to oppose the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The sources added that the office, which operates under a commercial license, is responsible for providing leftist and extremist religious organizations with financial help and weapons with a view to working to overthrow the regime in Jordan. These organizations include the "Islamic Mobilization Youths," the "Islamic Jihad," "Al-Aqsa Battalions" [Saraya al-aqsa], and other organizations.

Communist Party To Sue Ministry Over Recognition

JN1212074392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 92 p 3

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—The Communist Party which was denied official authorization by the Ministry of Interior to function legally in Jordan is preparing to sue the ministry at the Higher Court of Justice in Amman.

Prominent Communist Party member Emily Nafik' who made the announcement to the JORDAN TIMES said that lawyers Ibrahim Bakr and Sulayman al-Hadidi have pledged to defend the party's stand before the court and other Jordanian lawyers have also expressed willingness to do the job.

We highly value the views in the Jordanian media as expressed by prominent personalities and columnists in support of the party's cause and its struggle to obtain official recognition, said Mrs. Nafik'.

She said that the party has received a flow of telephone contacts and letters of support from various sources expressing solidarity with the party.

"Denying the Communist Party the right to function legally in Jordan is a negative indication that can by no means serve the democratic process in this country," said Mrs. Nafik'. She said that is not the problem of the communists alone but rather the whole Jordanian people. Interior Minister Jawdat al-Sukhul had argued that it was his right to reject requests for recognition of political parties in Jordan according to the law.

In a statement on Dec. 3, the minister said that the law granted the Minister of Interior the right to reject any request for registering political parties if that request was found to contradict Jordanian law. But, he noted, that the same law opened the way for the applicants to contest the decision at the Higher Court of Justice within 30 days of being informed of the rejection. The final decision in this matter, said the minister, rests with the court.

Mrs. Nafik' was speaking shortly after her return from Portugal where she attended meeting of the central committee of the Portuguese Communist Party. She reported the dismay felt by party members at the ministry's decision, although they had showed support for the democratic gains achieved in the Kingdom and the end of the martial law in the country.

Mrs. Nafik' said that the Communist Party in Portugal sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussyn condemning the rejection by the ministry. She said that the various delegations attending the meeting in Portugal issued a statement in which they described the ministry's move as undemocratic.

"We, representatives of parties and organizations from different countries of the world attending the 14th congress of the Communist Party express dismay at the refusal of the Jordanian government to legalize the Jordanian Communist Party," said the statement.

Convicts Covered by Royal Amnesty Released

JN1112092592 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 12 Dec 92 p 29

[By Ahmad Kurraylum]

[Excerpt] The first batch of convicts covered by the special amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussayn and signed by him prior to his travel to the United States was released last night [11 December] from various reform and rehabilitation centers in the Kingdom.

Amid songs of rejoicing and prayers for His Majesty King Hussayn's safe return to the homeland, competent quarters last night released approximately 150 convicts covered by the special amnesty. [passage omitted] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 13 December reports that the remainder of the convicts who had served half their sentences, except those involved in crimes of "espionage, rape, robbery, armed robbery, and criminal gangs," were released on 12 December]

King's Reversion to Language of War Deplored

PM1412144592 London AL-MAHALLAH in Arabic 9-15 Dec 92 p 15

["Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid article: "Return to War of Words"]

[Text] When a destructive war breaks out in a region a crime in the vicinity becomes something secondary. And also in time of war political slander becomes worthless in a sea of propaganda and counterpropaganda. It is not strange for all hysterical actions to be justified when everyone recognizes the right to resort to physical fighting.

But it is ambiguous—amid collective calm—to be surprised by a clamorous speech like the Jordanian monarch's speech, which returns us to the state and atmosphere of war and in which he repeated the "mother of all battles" language. I ask: Why return to this language when for over a year we have been hearing, especially from the Jordanian side, that the war file should be closed and that we should return to a time of minor disagreements as long as disagreement is a natural result of interlinked and conflicting interests?

This is why we wonder: Why has Jordanian language in particular returned to the previous stage of convulsion, when in the past it used to urge its renunciation? I find no answer except that the efforts exerted to achieve reconciliation have not succeeded, and this verbal anger is the result of their failure. But does it mean that returning to the time of media war is the natural and only solution with which there can be coexistence after the failure to achieve reconciliation?

The political problem in the Arab world is attributable to factors which are less complex than those in the industrial world. And they are more like disagreements between old states or tribal disagreements. This is because major disagreements among Arab states can be

contained, and within a reasonable time framework. They break out quickly and are extinguished quickly as well. And there is not a single wide-ranging Arab-Arab dispute which is decades old. As for the major states' disputes, they are attributable to strategic and vital factors. The dispute between the Eastern and Western blocs continued even after the alliance between them in World War II, as we all remember. The dispute was between institutions and ideas with which all attempts at coexistence failed. Whereas political disagreement among the Arab states—even if it is over a piece of territory, an area of grazing land, or an oil well—is attributable to personal questions and reasons.

Perhaps Iraq—even without Saddam Husayn—dreams of seizing a land which has great material and oil resources like Kuwait, but Iraq—without its leadership's personal thinking—might not adopt or embark on such a decision. So it is not to do with urgent high interests, but, rather, an individual view which believes that it needs to increase its influence, estates, and revenues.

Thus if reconciliation has not yet been achieved between the Gulf states and the "new Baghdad pact states," it is because it is still a personal disagreement and a psychological question which requires time, which is always a useful remedy in resolving Arab disputes. This is because it is not possible for the Kuwaiti Government to move out in a short period of time toward these states. And if it does, it will face popular disobedience inside it. This is because the Kuwaiti citizen's sister was raped, his son was killed, or he was evacuated from home only two years ago. And whatever politicians say about reconciliation, no one will be convinced of such a view today.

And this reminds us of the civil war that shook Jordan, which took place between the government and the PLO and claimed many lives, including innocent lives. The relationship between the two sides was repaired after a very long period of time. And it was a less severe and destructive dispute than the incidents of 2 August 1990.

Besides, it is easy to reply to the accusations launched here and there, namely by referring to books of very recent history. Accusing some rulers of using foreigners' spears opens the history books of the region as a whole, not just the Gulf issue. Politics in the Arab region is like musical chairs, as they accuse one another of problems they experienced in the past. [as published]

Insisting on reconciliation is a hasty policy which ducks fundamental realities. The states which supported Baghdad cannot admit their mistake in supporting the invasion of a fraternal state, not because it is shameful to admit that, but because they realize that it would be political suicide which would shake them from within, especially as their citizens are still paying the price for the adventure. And the Gulf states know that reconciliation cannot be accepted inside them, because its disasters are still in their minds.

This is why political speeches like the Jordanian monarch's recent speech, in addition to some political statements made by others, are made at the expense of these countries' principal interests and dash the hopes of those who want the "grace" period to pass with the maximum amount of calm and discipline. In fact it is these statements and speeches, which are for local consumption, which have driven us to serious stages of backwardness in the region since the fifties. A leader uses all his ammunition in one speech and then finds himself confronted by similar ammunition, then he returns to reconciliation after people's emotions have been destroyed in between.

Hasan Discusses Problem of Water Resources

AU1412142892 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 14 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan by Brigitte Voykowitsch in Amman; date not given: "Hasan: 'In This Region We Do Not Need Any Reason for War'"]

[Text] Jordan sees the priority in the Middle East negotiations in solving the Palestinian problem. This was stated by Crown Prince Hasan (whose brother, King Husayn, left the U.S. Mayo Clinic on the weekend "completely healed" of cancer) in an interview for a delegation of journalists organized by the United Nations. In the course of the interview, the first part of which was published by DER STANDARD on Saturday [12 December], Hasan discussed multilateral Middle East topics, such as water supply.

[Hasan] I do no know who coined the term "water war." But I do not think that we need a reason for war in this region. The distribution of the subterranean and surface water resources is the central aspect of the multilateral negotiations. We have a conflict range of 70 miles, including Jerusalem, Amman, southern Lebanon, and southern Syria. Only an interdisciplinary approach—water and population—can lead to a regional solution.

Today there are 4 million people in Jordan and 6 million in Israel. This number will triple by the year 2010. And no Russian emigrant, no Palestinian from Kuwait has brought with him a single bucket of water to Israel or Jordan.

[Voykowitsch] What is the point of multilateral arms control talks, if, at the same time, the arms trade continues to flourish?

[Hasan] In view of the scope and the kind of arms purchases by the Syrians, the Iranians, and the Gulf states, I wonder: What is the security concept behind that? So far, there is no comprehensive dialogue about conventional or unconventional weapons, or about terrorism, either.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM151216092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 92 p3

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Randah Taqiyy al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Taqiyy al-Din] In the wake of your meeting with the French foreign minister, do you expect tangible results as far as aid for Lebanon is concerned?

[Buwayz] France is a main partner of Lebanon on the international scene, at political, economic, and cultural levels. [passage omitted] We naturally exchanged views on several issues, the first being the situation in southern Lebanon and how to control it pending progress in the peace negotiations, the possibility of France using its influence on a number of states in the region, particularly Israel, and France's role in the current political process. [passage omitted]

I explained to the French side that although some outlines were submitted in the negotiation rounds, no fundamental progress has yet been made that would enable us to discuss the actual programming of the peace process. We are still dealing more with general, perhaps advanced, outlines than we are with solution plans.

[Taqiyy al-Din] What were your motives for participating in the latest round of bilateral negotiations even though U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has not assumed his presidential duties yet?

[Buwayz] We had many motives. The first was that in a comprehensive, vast, and protracted peace process, one cannot participate in some rounds and not in others. These rounds are only a means to an end. Some are positive and some are fruitless. We cannot make a precondition that all the rounds should be positive. We should work for progress in every round and not make preconditions that would open the way for Israeli preconditions. Furthermore, we believe that discontinuation of the rounds would make their resumption more difficult. [passage omitted]

I believe that most parties are assessing their positions after more than a year of negotiations. Everyone needs such assessment before the transition from the George Bush phase to the Bill Clinton phase. Everyone needs to confirm certain points that would constitute a new start in the next round. It is in the current U.S. Administration's interest to give an almost clear file to the new administration which will ask it about the state of the negotiations.

As far as Lebanon is concerned, it is interested in a clarification of what it heard about Israel not having any territorial ambitions in Lebanon and about Israel's willingness to discuss redeployment of its forces southward. It is interested in hearing something that would be close to meaning complete and unconditional withdrawal. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] It seems that the various parties fear that one party or another might be ahead in the negotiations. What is your view?

[Buwayz] I utterly and continuously and permanently believe that there will either be comprehensive peace or no peace because all the Arab regimes should be able to make the peace decision together. No party can make the peace decision separately. The issue of peace is interlinked whether we like it or not. The Palestinian cause is the cause of all the Arabs not just one group. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] Some people blame you for failing to control Hizballah which has links with Iran and Syria. The United States blames Syria in this connection, as if you did not exist. How do you explain that?

[Buwayz] I have already said that problems in the Middle East are interlinked. Let me ask: Has there been a liberation movement in the Arab world linked only to one regime or one side? Are all the Palestinian organizations attached to [the Palestinian leadership in] Tunis? Are all the fundamentalist movements linked to the same party? I can say that the situation in the south is linked to a general condition. I do not believe that it is possible to ask the Lebanese state to have sole responsibility for and authority over movements which uphold a general view of the entire Middle East crisis. Although we insist that the resistance must be in harmony with the Lebanese state's options, no regime can ask its people to give in to the Israeli occupation in the absence of any guarantee of Israeli withdrawal. What we are clearly saying and requesting is that Israel should begin to make a clear commitment to withdrawal from the south. The state would then have a political card that would enable it to ask everyone to cool the situation down. The right of resistance remains valid so long as the state has no radical way of liberating the south and so long as the international community is unable to honor its commitments and implement its resolutions.

[Taqiyy al-Din] U.S. State Department officials maintain that the most prominent feature of the al-Ta'if agreement was the disarming of the militias, but Hizballah is still there and has kept its arms. Why?

[Buwayz] That is not true. Hizballah has no militia authority on the ground and has no authority on the ground in conflict with the authority of the state and the law. Hizballah in the south is not so much a militia as a resistance embraced, rightly or wrongly, by public opinion there. As regards the other areas, I have not heard that Hizballah has exercised any authority anywhere. As regards Hizballah having supporters, that is natural for any party, but there are no forces, no camps, and no heavy weapons, although some Hizballah supporters, like most Lebanese people, have light weapons.

[Taqiyy al-Din] How do you view Lebanese-Iranian relations? Are they along the same lines as Syrian-Iranian relations?

[Beirut] Until two years ago Lebanese-Iranian relations were almost severed but since then, following contacts made with me by Iranian official delegations, my visit to Tehran, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Beirut, we have reorganized and developed these relations within official and diplomatic frameworks between the two states. Relations have been restored and have improved in various ways but we have not tackled these relations radically. There remains the Iranian interaction with the political life in Lebanon. I am confident that the progress we have made will lead to more comprehensive and higher-level relations than the [current] peripheral and circumstantial relations. What we want is not factional relations based on sects and creeds but regular comprehensive relations in accordance with the diplomatic rules followed in relations between states. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah on Treaty With Israel, POW's

NC1612214392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has announced that the south is an open front that possesses all the resources necessary to escalate the resistance as long as the occupation continues. In an interview with the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, Nasrallah said that any treaty the Lebanese state may sign with Israel will not be binding on the people, Hizballah, or Hizballah's deputies in the Chamber of Deputies. He added that Israel and the United States are pressuring Lebanon to disarm the resistance.

Nasrallah announced that the captured Israeli airman is not in Hizballah's custody or any other party connected with Hizballah. He admitted that Hizballah is holding two Israeli soldiers and several members of [Antoine] Lahd's militia and said he is willing to exchange them for Lebanese POW's and detainees that Israel is holding.

Government To Back Continued Syrian Presence

PM1612124492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 92 p 2

[Walid Shaqayr report: "Government Will Back Syrian Forces' Presence If Washington Insists on Raising Redeployment"]

[Text] Beirut—An official source has told AL-HAYAH that, if the U.S. Administration insists that the Syrian redeployment issue be discussed, as reports arriving in Beirut said, the Lebanese position will reiterate that it is a Lebanese-Syrian affair.

Commenting on this, a well-informed ministerial source said that, "if the Lebanese Government meets to consider any foreign insistence that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments discuss redeployment, they will decide that the time is not right and that Lebanon still needs the Syrian forces in the areas where they are currently stationed."

The ministerial source added that "there are moderate Christians in the government who believe that the Syrian forces should remain in Lebanon for a further period if this government's task is to work to achieve a reconciliation whose backbone is the evacuees' return to their villages and homes. And this can only be achieved through the Syrian forces' presence, so that they will help to achieve this major step."

The ministerial source emphasized that "numerous Christian forces not classified as allies of Syria or considered influenced by Syria demand that the Syrian forces should stay if there is a real plan to return the evacuees to their homes—for which the Syrian forces constitute the main guarantee. Moderate Christian ministers believe that insistence on Syrian redeployment means that there is no serious plan to return the evacuees to their homes, thus there is no justification for the formation of al-Hariri's government in the way it was formed."

The official source confirmed to AL-HAYAH the ministerial source's statement, indicating that Lebanon's main excuse for refusing to discuss redeployment is the need for the Syrian forces in the plan to return the evacuees. This is because their continued presence—even if they are stationed in the areas to which the evacuees are supposed to return—constitutes a guarantee for this step's success against any attempt to sabotage it.

The source said that "the Lebanese Government is well aware of of this reality, which is why it is focusing efforts on helping Lebanon to implement the Israeli withdrawal, because the continuing occupation in the south is the main source of danger to all official Lebanese efforts to improve conditions."

The Lebanese source revealed that Rafiq al-Hariri expressed this orientation during his visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France. He told Saudi officials that his government has ready plans and views for rebuilding and for improving the Lebanese infrastructure. And that the achievements which his government can achieve remain exposed to sabotage or obstruction by Israel as long as it is continuing to occupy part of the south and west al-Biqa'.

The source added that "on that basis, the prime minister asked senior officials in the kingdom to help to implement Security Council Resolution 425. The Saudis were convinced by this approach and thus decided to make endeavors with the United States in this connection. They requested Saudi Ambassador in Washington Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan to include the south Lebanon issue in his contacts with the working team surrounding the new President-elect Bill Clinton." The sources said that, "although the kingdom's position of supporting implementation of Resolution 425 and backing Lebanon is known and not new, and the matter depends on the

United States from the beginning, the kingdom's new endeavor remains positive in terms of following up the issue."

Lebanon's position on the redeployment issue and its refusal to discuss it in present conditions, and on focusing on implementation of Resolution 425, is attributable to the conviction that the former issue is linked to the course of developments and negotiations regarding a settlement in the Middle East in addition to the fact that all parties are awaiting Clinton's assumption of office next month, and that the latter issue is deadlocked in view of the standstill in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, as the Israeli side and all the other parties are awaiting the new orientations of the Clinton administration as well.

A ministerial source says in this connection that the position of the outgoing President George Bush's administration on reactivating the redeployment issue is designed to secure a position to which the Clinton administration would be committed if there is progress in contacts between the latter and Damascus regarding the situation in the region and U.S.-Syrian relations. Such progress would make the redeployment issue secondary in relations between the two states, compared with the continuation of the peace negotiations.

Iran Said To 'Return to the Logic of State'

NC1612135992 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p 2

[Article by Ibrahim al-Amin: "Iran Gives Priority to Resistance Action Over Diplomatic Efforts To Liberate Territory, Efforts To Establish Stable Relations With 'the Lebanese State,' and Trade and Economic Agreements."]

[Excerpts] Remarks from a commentary by official Iranian radio following Rafiq al-Hariri's designation as prime minister, which cast doubt on this prominent businessman's ability to achieve in light of his foreign links, caused misunderstandings in Lebanese—even Syrian—official and political circles. The commentary was interpreted as the official angry Iranian position on al-Hariri's designation. A source close to al-Hariri said then that these remarks provoked the new prime minister even before he embarked on his tasks.

A senior Iranian diplomat in Beirut said this interpretation is inaccurate, taken out of context from a long commentary by Iranian radio. The diplomat revealed that the remainder of the commentary reviewed the Lebanese situation and contained "special praise of Prime Minister al-Hariri and his extensive services to many Lebanese citizens, particularly Shiites in Beirut's southern suburb who benefit from the aid he extended following the Israeli invasion." This clarification came in a message of congratulation and wishes for success sent by Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi to al-Hariri.

A few days ago Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Kazim Khonsari visited Beirut with a delegation and met senior officials on a tour that the Iranian diplomat described as necessary following the past few months' developments in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Iranian diplomat believes that for some time Iran has attached special importance to its official relations with Lebanon. Khonsari's visit is seen as a continuation of visits by other Iranian officials to Beirut. Khonsari repeated earlier invitations to some senior officials to visit Tehran, notably Nabih Birri, speaker of the new Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

That was at the direct official level. As for the unofficial contacts, the Beirut-based Iranian diplomat emphasizes that Iran still consolidates its ties on the unofficial level with the various Lebanese trends and forces without compromising Tehran's endeavors to strengthen its relations with the Lebanese state. This issue is of particular importance to Iran, both in terms of its political influence in Lebanon generated by its strong presence within the Shiite community or through the need for harmony between the Iranian position and the position of these forces on developments concerning the Lebanese question, particularly with regard to the Middle East talks. According to the Iranian diplomat, there are doubts about the U.S. approach to the talks, which makes the question of "jihad resistance" against the occupation troops in the south a vital issue that needs everyone's backing and support, officially and unofficially. The Iranian diplomat explains that what he heard from officials in Beirut points to backing for the resistance. Some believe there is room for coordination between the resistance and the state at a certain stage, so that the state could benefit from all political and nonpolitical means to achieve the common goal of liberating the south.

In view of current developments, particularly after the U.S. presidential election, the Iranian diplomat believes the pressures on the Arab side have increased, requiring all parties to rearrange their cards and state preferences. He notes that in the circumstances, jihad action should perhaps take priority over other options, which require the presence of various forces, even non-Lebanese. This is particularly so, according to the Iranian diplomat, because the basic problem is not purely domestic. One Israeli aggression is enough to turn the domestic situation upside down, no matter how good the situation.

Using the same logic, the prominent Iranian diplomat in Beirut links this position with the formation of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's government and the absence of any reference to resistance in his policy statement, noting that Khonsari's visit to Lebanon followed the vote of confidence in the government. He points out that the forthcoming Iranian economic aid to Lebanon will not be subject to a study of Iranian political influence, because Prime Minister al-Hariri was positive about this. Iran wants economic relations to be strengthened through official agreements between the two countries to guarantee stability and continuity in these relations.

which Iran particularly needs. Lebanese diplomats who are well-versed in Iranian affairs describe this trend as a return to the logic of state, even if it comes at the expense of the logic of revolution, which the unofficial [Lebanese] forces may need in the domestic battle. [passage omitted]

Saudi Troop Dispatch to Somalia Criticized

NC1612123892 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Dec 92 p 1, 11

[From the "On the Road" column by Talal Salman: "Kingdom Between Beirut and Washington"]

[Text] Had Rafiq al-Hariri been an American, he would have returned from the kingdom with what he asked for and much more.

It is not a royal habit to turn back an American, any American, empty-handed. He always gets what he asks for or needs to rebuild the collapsing economy of his great country.

Had Rafiq al-Hariri been a mere contractor or businessman whose objective was to win a tender with astronomical figures in the kingdom of gold, he would have got it with dignity and pride.

Had Rafiq al-Hariri asked for personal help for himself or others—such as to build mosques or churches where no pious people go—he would have got more than he asked for.

But Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, a stately person, got from the kingdom that dwells deep in his heart nothing more than promises, which every former Lebanese official got when he visited that sacred land, chosen and honored by God as his home and for his message.

Many objected to the private visit and royal meetings in light of the results, not to the principles of such a visit, the formalities that accompanied it, or more specifically their absence.

The objection voiced in Jeddah to Rafiq al-Hariri's statement at the end of his visit to the kingdom was on the principle and dealt with the essence, the content, before attaching the expressions and statements that befit neither Rafiq al-Hariri's new position nor the unanimity with which he was received by the Lebanese and which finally bestowed upon him the honorable noble title.

The Rafiq al-Hariri of today is different from yesterday's Rafiq al-Hariri. Al-Hariri, the first Lebanese official, is different from al-Hariri the businessman, who was lucky in his achievements in contracting and whom the kingdom blessed, in an exceptional case, with its nationality.

The kingdom dealt with al-Hariri as prime minister of Lebanon, giving him no more than it gave other Lebanese officials who visited it and hoped it would carry out its promises and pledges by contributing toward the reconstruction of Lebanon. This can be done by implementing the resolutions of the infamous Tunis summit, by reviving the project of the international fund for rebuilding Lebanon, by offering direct aid from its private pocket, or by giving grants to its needy brothers in Lebanon.

Al-Hariri has said more than he should, even if he does get what he asked for. What happens if he does not come back even with the bare minimum he hoped for?

This is none of our business. Let us return to the core of the issue.

The core is that the kingdom, which reluctantly donated a handful of dollars to the Lebanese and to the wretched Somalis, is offering the blood of its sons in great abundance to the Americans and their interests in the kingdom or countries around it.

It unfurled the American flag upon orders from the American command, in a mission the American President single-handedly decided to undertake for American objectives and purposes. The kingdom will participate—by dispatching a force from its army—in liberating Somalia from starvation and hunger.

In every American war, say in every liberation invasion against the Arabs, the American strips the Arab of his looks and masks his own face, thus convincing the Arabs and the rest of the people that he is responding to an Arab request or realizing an objective the Arabs want for themselves, for their own sake, or for the sake of God the creator, no more.

So some armed forces from the kingdom will go and unfurl their flag, decorated with the two attestations to the Muslim faith, over the head of the American soldier, who seems to have decided to invade Africa starting with its Horn. In this way it completes and strengthens its presence on the other bank of the Red Sea in the Gulf and Peninsula, setting up a fence of iron, fire, and humanitarianism around its Arab oil.

A few days ago the kingdom was debating the possibility of dispatching some of its Armed Forces to support the oppressed Muslims who are threatened by annihilation in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Serbs, the enemies of God.

In between the two decisions and while they are engrossed in preparing their military campaigns to liberate Muslims in the East and West, the kingdom is preparing to help Lebanon liberate its land from the Israeli occupation by implementing international Resolution 425 as a prelude to the reconstruction of Lebanon and resurrection of its role in serving the issues of its nation, as al-Hariri said in a statement in Jeddah.

Because the kingdom did not know about the Israeli occupation of Lebanon or about the international resolution, it promised Prime Minister al-Hariri to start immediate action to expel the occupier and force it to implement Resolution 425, out of its keenness to preserve in full the 10,452 sq km area of Lebanese sovereignty, including the commercial center of Beirut.

Because the kingdom is currently engrossed in liberating various peoples, be it from poverty, oppression, or occupation, some of its officials found enough time to write out checks of aid and contributions to which their Lebanese guest alluded but for which he did not ask, because he is, after all, the prime minister of a state and the state does not beg.

So al-Hariri returned home with royal pledges and promises that will be carefully incorporated into the golden archives of summit resolutions, meetings, speeches, and official letters, in addition to the correspondence and verbal messages that the Lebanese have seen often, but which have not quenched their thirst or protected them from misery.

The face of the Arab has become like Halloween: a mask the American uses in his liberation wars and invasions in Arab countries.

The main difference is that Halloween masks are used for entertainment and fun, while the Arab mask has been and is currently being used in dirty American missions that essentially target the Arabs.

The old colonialism did justify its invasion of countries by claiming to liberate them from the tyranny of old empires and worn-out rule.

The American armed invasion is now taking place under the slogan of liberation through democracy and enabling a person to practice his rights.

In this way the American picks the glorious fruit of his liberation. He then takes off the ugly mask and throws it into the dustbin of history as a symbol of the past, backwardness, and inability to enjoy human rights.

Somali Islamic Trends, U.S. Actions Viewed

NC1612112592 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Dec 92 pp 26-27

[Report by Nasir Sharaytih]

[Excerpts] For the fourth and last time during President George Bush's term, a large number of U.S. troops have been sent abroad on a large-scale military campaign. Unlike the previous three—Panama, the Gulf, and northern Iraq—Somalia was not an expected American target. There was no foreign pressure for America's intervention in Somalia, as is the case with Bosnia, for example, but some objectives of the operation in Somalia and the campaign to protect Iraq's Kurds from Saddam Husayn's oppression 18 months ago are the same. [passage omitted]

Somalia, with all its political details, does not seem to be under the international microscope. But two Islamic trends surface in the country. The first is fundamentalist [salafi] and the second is represented by the Somali Islamic Party [SIP], which is influenced by the guidance and inclinations of Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan. The two trends enjoy a certain presence in all Somali regions, but their military and organizational abilities have not been tested. The second trend, which is influenced by al-Turabi's inclinations, must be viewed as part of al-Turabi's strategy aimed at building an Islamic belt around Sudan. Al-Turabi believes such a belt would protect the experiment of making the country Islamic and turning it into a base for the Islamic movement in the Arab and African regions. The SIP has counterparts in Kenya, Djibouti, and other African countries. The common denominator is that they are almost wholly guided by al-Turabi's instructions.

It is no secret here that in its monitoring of the American action in Somalia, the SIP will not proceed out of Somalia's interests alone, but also from what the party considers to be the interest of Islamic internationalism, which al-Turabi seeks to establish through several frameworks he derived to attract Islamic trends worldwide. The SIP military action against the American presence in Somalia will be linked with developments in regional sensitivities connected with the international forces' scope of action in the region.

The international forces may face another type of danger in Somalia. It stems from these forces not knowing the patterns of famine hitting the country or the causes. This will obstruct the rescue mission and prompt the Somalis to discuss the U.S. presence as political, not humanitarian. Some sides, especially the SIP, may use this to promote fighting the U.S. presence to drive the American forces out before the United States achieves its objectives, which the party considers to be the following:

1. Controlling the newly discovered oil grid on the territories of Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Yemen.

2. Setting up a pro-American government in Somalia.

3. Turning south Sudan into a region to wear out the Islamic question—in the same way northern Iraq has been turned into a geographic region to wear out the Kurdish issue.

Sources close to al-Turabi explain point three by saying that northern Iraq has been turned into a region where Washington runs not humanitarian affairs, but is finishing off the Kurdish issue and the absorption of its effects on relations among the region's states and on each one of the states. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

PM1612100892 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Syria Rejects Any Interference, Disarming of Hizballah"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam yesterday received a U.S. Congress delegation and discussed with it the general situation in the region, as well as bilateral relations and their course before U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton moves into the White House. Damascus reiterated its rejection of the disarming of Hizballah and "foreign interference" in its affairs.

The delegation comprises Senator David Boren, representative of the Senate Intelligence Committee; Claiborne Pell, representative of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and Senator Carl Levin. The delegation met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' Saturday evening.

The meeting, which was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross, dealt with bilateral relations and the peace process in the Middle East. Al-Shar' expressed "Syria's eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace."

An official Syrian source quoted the U.S. delegation as saying that it "hopes that the new U.S. Administration will continue to advance and boost the peace process."

The delegation's composition indicates that it is discussing the fundamental issues, especially those considered a pivot of disagreement between Syria and the United States, in order to prepare a report and recommendations for Congress regarding the future of bilateral relations, specifically with regard to human rights, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the peace process.

Well-informed Syrian sources have said that "Syria's decision on these issues is to be taken in Damascus, not Congress," and that Syria's position on the peace process "is clear, known, and cannot be abandoned. With regard to the other issues, including terrorism, the U.S. Administration has failed to provide a single piece of evidence implicating any Syrian-based faction, especially the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, under Ahmad Jibril, in any terrorist action.

The sources added that Damascus "is always open to dialogue, but it is not willing to change its known fixed positions; the others must change their positions." The sources stressed the Syrian position on Hizballah, wondering: "Why should a faction fighting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon alongside other factions be disarmed?" They went on: "Syria and Lebanon are implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, but they cannot accept any foreign interpretations of the agreement, including any such interpretation of the points concerning the Syrian forces' redeployment (in Lebanon) which, according to the al-Ta'if agreement, is linked to the abolition of political sectarianism."

The sources emphasized that "Syria will not agree to abandon Lebanon, lest it return to the situation that existed before the al-Ta'if agreement and recent reforms, and turn into another Bosnia to be destroyed under the eyes of a world that remains unmoved. Those demanding the Syrian forces' redeployment committed themselves to providing aid to Lebanon, but it has received none."

The sources emphasized that Syria "rejects any foreign interference in the country and stresses that the party pluralism and political representation method applied there suits the conditions of Syrian society socially, culturally, and economically, and Syria will not import political models from abroad to apply them."

Khaddam: 'Arafat Has 'Lost Most of His Brain'

PM1612142692 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 14 Dec 92 p10

[Interview with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Simonetta Della Seta in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Damascus—He is the most powerful man in Syria after [President] Hafiz al-Asad. Considered the president's right-hand man and officially his immediate deputy, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is the most authoritative Sunni in Damascus' strong Alawite command. A former foreign minister, he has been in charge of "Lebanese affairs" for over 20 years. Born in Banyas, at the foot of the Golan, Khaddam was also the first governor of the Heights before Israel occupied them in 1967. Despite the fact that he is 50 years old, he looks young, his gaze is cold and purposely impenetrable, like that of so many other regime officials you meet in the Syrian capital. He is known among Syrian journalists as a man of few words, often to the point of abruptness. Many appear to have experienced his cutting replies, especially when tackled on a subject not to his liking. "I am hard," he admits, "but I prefer clarity to ambiguity." During our meeting, which lasted three and a half hours, the Syrian vice president showed transparency and chose to throw himself unhesitatingly into a whirlwind of declarations.

[Della Seta] You Syrians consider that negotiations with Israel have reached an extremely critical point. Why?

[Khaddam] I would like to remind you that for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict there is a serious intention on both sides to reach a peace settlement in the region. Syria, like the other Arab interlocutors, has accepted the legality of the two UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Last September we therefore submitted to the Israelis an unprecedented document calling for the application of those resolutions, in other words Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, in recognition of "reciprocal security requirements." But Israel is

stalling, asking us to take further steps, probably because it is not yet ready to take its own. At this moment there are two obstacles: failure on Israel's part to confirm its commitment to total withdrawal from the Golan, and the attempt to circumvent a comprehensive solution to the conflict by trying to persuade us to accept bilateral settlements. For us there are no two ways about it: The Golan must return to us down to the last centimeter. Therefore we are certain that a partial solution, i.e. without parallel progress with the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Lebanese, cannot lead to any form of peace in the Middle East.

[Della Seta] You talk of a comprehensive solution: In which case, can the Palestinian question be placed totally in the PLO's hands or do you consider it to be an integral part of wider Arab negotiations, consequently giving you the right to interfere?

[Khaddam] Jerusalem is occupied Palestinian territory but it has a special significance for all Arabs and Muslims: The Palestinians must make a commitment to us all never to give it up. They cannot accept any measures which might risk removing Jerusalem from the Arab world.

[Della Seta] In our recent interview with 'Arafat in Tunis, however, the PLO chairman called Syria's behavior "completely contradictory," since on the one hand you are involved in direct dialogue with Israel while on the other you are sheltering, right here in Damascus, all the factions inside and outside the PLO which are opposed to the peace process.

[Khaddam] I really get the feeling that Mr. 'Arafat has lost most of his brain following the accident he had with his airplane. It is true, we do shelter organizations which are opposed to his policy, just as we shelter those which support 'Arafat. Our decision is not to interfere in internal Palestinian affairs. We do not wish to impose anything, either one way or the other: It is their business.

[Della Seta] The PLO leader also showed us a map according to which certain parts of the Golan, claimed by Syria, are really "Palestinian land."

[Khaddam] That is even greater proof that he has lost his wits. He has become unbalanced. Yes, write that; it is exactly what Halim Khaddam thinks and says.

[Della Seta] The peace process is often put to the test by the clashes between Israeli forces and the Hizballah (pro-Iran Shiite) groups in southern Lebanon. Why do you give a free hand to Hizballah? How long will you allow these people to attack Israel from a territory which is partly controlled by you?

[Khaddam] Why should we disarm them? Is it perhaps in our interests to reinforce the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon? They have a right and a duty to fight against occupation. Why interfere if Israel in turn refuses to go away? Are we to regard Hizballah as terrorists? Were the French or the Italians who fought against the Nazis terrorists, perhaps? We are inclined to see their action as a gesture of national resistance.

[Della Seta] More than a few of the groups you support or even shelter have a reputation, on an international level, for being terrorists; let us take Jibril for example. Would you not rather remove this stain?

[Khaddam] Jibril is in Syria and he will remain here. He is an Army officer, a Syrian citizen to all intents and purposes and with all honors; his mother is Syrian. We have often asked the Americans to bring us just one shred of evidence of his involvement in terrorist acts; they have not done so. Of course Jibril is against Israel; that cannot be considered terrorism.

[Della Seta] Your troops are still in Lebanon; the government in Beirut is chosen with Damascus' consent: For how long will you control the country?

[Khaddam] We cannot allow Lebanon to be torn apart again, and blood and civil war to return: It is in Syria's interests, but first and foremost in Lebanon's. We are two brother countries, closer to each other than two states inside the United States. Ever since we have been controlling Lebanon, the Lebanese have been living better. We are their guarantee. We shall stay for as long as need be.

[Della Seta] Syria has excellent relations with both Iran and Saudi Arabia: Both, especially the former, seem to be hotbeds of new radical and fundamentalist tendencies.

[Khaddam] It is right for each country to seek its own role. We have no intention of sticking our noses into it. And anyway: Why allow the most extremist groups of American Jews to support Israel and not Iranian Muslims to fight in aid of the Palestinians via the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement?

Al-Za'bi Discusses Cooperation With Kuwaiti Envoy

JN1612200692 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Za'bi this evening received Kuwaiti Planning and Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Sabsy'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

At the outset of the meeting, al-Ridan relayed the greetings of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, to al-Za'bi, who also asked the minister to relay his greetings to the Kuwaiti heir apparent.

The talks dealt with the existing fraternal Syrian-Kuwaiti ties and the moves being made to enhance bilateral cooperation in all spheres—a development which would

benefit the two fraternal countries and peoples. The talks also revolved around a host of issues pertaining to the means of enhancing the ties of cooperation, as well as issues of common interest.

Commentary Views al-Asad Address

JN1612175692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Opening the 22d Trade Unions Congress, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad said that far from being a commercial exercise, peace is about rights that must be reinstated in full and is about security and peace obligations that must be met by all the partners to the peace process. He also stated that one party's security should not be at the cost of the security of any other party. It is vital and extremely important that peace be based on such foundations. Israel's extremist and provocative line hardly advances the cause of peace. It should not be allowed to get away with skirting its requirements. Since Israel does not care for peace and only wants to retain the occupied Arab territories, it has, for the past year, been working to lead the peace process down a dead-end street, or to get the Arabs to relinquish their land and rights.

Syria is quite familiar with Israel's agenda—to cling to the occupied Arab land and grab further Arab territory. In his address, President al-Asad made the point that peace and territorial ambitions are incompatible, and debunked all the erroneous and flimsy arguments made by the rulers of Israel. He declared that a partial withdrawal can hardly bring peace and that the peace process cannot drag on forever.

The road to peace is clear: In a nutshell, Israel should pull out of the occupied Arab territories, obligate itself to the point of reference of the Madrid conference and the subsequent Washington bilateral talks and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions stress the inadmissibility of Israel acquiring Arab territory by war and force, and call for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the West Bank, the Gaza strip, and the Golan Heights. Resolution 425 also provides its withdrawal from south Lebanon. Only when Israel complies with these resolutions may the security and stability of the region be assured, and the corollary would be a fair and comprehensive peace. Israel owes it to the Arabs to effect a total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; it is a right the Arabs are not about to abandon. As far as this right goes, Israel ought to stop beating around the bush. If it does so, comprehensive and mutual security would be attained, with the security of none of the sides militating against any of the others. Given that they are the ones whose existence is always threatened by aggression and occupation and that they are the ones whose territories are under occupation, surely, the Arabs have a better claim to security guarantees. In the interest of normalcy and the right balance between rights and commitments, and Middle East stability and tranquility, and a region free from turbulence and tension, Syria will never go along with partial solutions or phased withdrawals. Under no circumstances will Syria be prepared to cede a single inch of Arab territory. This is because, for Syria, Arab dignity matters just as much as a fair, comprehensive, and durable peace.

The ball is now in the Israeli court. If Israel's peace intentions are sincere, it will have to honor UN resolutions and the UN Charter. For their part, the Arabs have done all in their power to advance the peace process, and will never—neither now nor in the future—cede a single inch of their territory.

Afghanistan

Leadership Statement on Transfer of Power

LD1612180092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Statement by the Islamic State of Afghanistan; in Kabul on 16 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, led by esteemed professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State, has fulfilled and will earnestly fulfill all its commitments. The government, in accordance with the Leadership Council decision, is cooperating fully regarding the transfer of power through the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] and has not spared any necessary assistance in this respect. The leadership of the Islamic State had made all arrangements and provided all necessary means for the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council prior to the extension of the deadline. The commission assigned to this task was completely ready for the convocation of this Council. However, disruption by some obvious circles impeded the timely convocation of the Council.

Causing difficulties for the convocation of the Council or trying to transfer power by other means without taking into consideration the will and decision of the Muslim people of Afghanistan is an act contrary to all decisions of the Leadership Council and will of the nation. The Islamic State of Afghanistan has decisively decided to convene the Resolution and Settlement Council as a forum reflecting the will and wishes of the people of Afghanistan, as the most effective means of coming out of stalemate, and as the most authoritative forum that can end all differences and difficulties in which all competent and elected representatives of the nation can take part. The people of Afghanistan can thereby elect the future leadership of the country through their elected representatives in accordance with the requirements of history and their own choice.

Thus the transfer of power can take place, through a legitimate and legal channel, to a leadership chosen by the representatives of the people. Today our country is at a particular historic juncture. The people want to take an active part in the election of the future leadership of their country. They are all unanimous at this point that there is no any other way than to implement the Leadership Council's decision requiring the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council. Therefore, the leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan announces clearly and decisively that it is ready for the transfer of power in accordance with the resolutions and decisions of the Resolution and Settlement Council. Therefore, the Leadership Council calls sincerely on all jihadi parties and the relevant side [as heard] to cooperate and assist their Islamic state in convening the Resolution and Settlement Council now that we are on the threshold of its convocation. Because only by this method can the people of Afghanistan play their Islamic, national, and historic role in electing the future leadership of the country and in determining the fate of their country.

Defense Ministry Supports Government Statement

LD1612180092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Statement by the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in Kabul on 16 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

The Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan declares its support for the statement of the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning the transfer of political power on the basis of decisions taken by the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura- ye Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] in respect of the will of the people in choosing the future leadership of the country.

The [word indistinct] army of the Islamic State, realizing its responsibility on the eve of the realization of the aims of the Islamic revolution and safeguarding the gains of the Islamic nation of Afghanistan, deems its duty—in observation of the implementation of the decisions of the jihad leaders regarding the transfer of political power to an elected leadership by the Resolution and Settlement Council—is to render an all-round effort. It is completely ready to maintain security and create suitable conditions [for convening the Council].

Council Representatives Hold News Conference

LD1612213992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] A number of elected representatives of the people who have arrived in Kabul from various provinces of the country expressed their opinion about the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] at a news conference this afternoon. Foreign and domestic journalists took part in the conference which was held at Spinzar Hotel. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that at the beginning of this news conference, esteemed Mohammad 'Asef Khawri, minister adviser to the Islamic State of Afghanistan, spoke about the method of election, the commissions set up for the Resolution and Settlement Council, and the traditional use of jergas [assemblies] among Afghans in solving national problems.

Then journalists asked questions about the necessity of convening the Council, the method of election of delegates to the Council, and the historical importance of the Council under the present critical conditions of the country, to which answers were given by the participants. While emphasizing the position of the Peshawar

Accords on the selection of leadership for Afghanistan through the Resolution and Settlement Council, the participants told the conference that the Peshawar Accords were concluded with the understanding and unanimity of opinion of the jihad leaders, and that the Council should elect the president of the State of Afghanistan for the next 18 months. Regarding the method of election of the peoples' representatives to the Council, he said that the election process was carried out in an atmosphere of complete unity and in consideration of population in every district. The people elected their trustworthy representatives in a free atmosphere, he said.

India

Reaction to Dismissal of 3 BJP Governments

Rao Defends Move

BK1612160892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said the three BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-ruled state governments have been dismissed to take the center's decision to a logical conclusion. Addressing a gathering at his residence in New Delhi today, he said if the president's rule was not imposed, the center's decisions could not have been implemented properly in these states. Expressing concern over the loss lives of innocent people in violence, Mr. Rao said normalcy has to be restored at the earliest. Mr. Rao blamed all those who were responsible for the violence for not realizing that foreign countries will not invest if peace is not maintained.

Other React

BK1612134892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The dismissed chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa, has described the dismissal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] governments in the three states as undemocratic and against the spirit of the constitution. He told a news conference in Bhopal today that the reason assigned to his dismissal is not tenable as he never failed in his responsibility in implementing any of the orders of the central government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and holding of fresh elections. In a resolution adopted by the party office bearers in New Delhi today, it also demanded the dissolution of the state assembly where law and order has failed miserably. The party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the reason for dismissing the BJP governments was not law and order, but what he described as differences with other parties and policies and programs.

The Congress-I says there is no question of midterm poll in the country. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the question of midterm poll does not arise so long as the party enjoyed majority in parliament. He expressed satisfaction that the government accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Congress-I working committee to dismiss three BJP-ruled state governments. He said all the three governments were headed by persons belonging to the banned organizations RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh].

The Kerala chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has said the dismissal of the BJP governments in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh will not affect the survival of the Narasimha Rao government. Talking to reporters in Cochin today, Mr. Karunakaran said the decision to dismiss the government was taken after careful and serious thinking.

In Rajasthan, the statewide bandh [strike] called by the BJP in protest against the dismissal of the government today evoked partial response. Government offices functioned with thin attendance. Shops and commercial establishments were open in some areas while the educational institutions were closed. A 24-hour curfew has been clamped in Diawar, Udaipur, Kotah, Niwai, and Todarai Singh as a precautionary measure.

In Himachal Pradesh, shop keepers observed a partial hartal [strike] today to protest against the dismissal of the state government.

In Punjab, the BJP-sponsored bandh failed to evoke any response.

The Janata Dal-A president, Mr. Ajit Singh, has said his party will approach the election commission for derecognition of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and the Muslim League. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the BJP is only a front organization of the RSS. Earlier, the Janata Dal-A welcomed the center's decision to dismiss BJP governments in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

The former chief minister and president of the Samajwadi Party, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has welcomed the dismissal of the governments in the three states.

BJP Urges Government Resignation

BK1612161892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] today urged the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, to ask the government to resign, dissolve the Lok Sabha, and order fresh elections. A BJP delegation led by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, along with other BJP Members of Parliament, submitted a memorandum to this effect to the president this evening. The memorandum described the dismissal of the BJP state governments, the ban on the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and VHP [Vishwa

Hindu Parishad], and the arrest of their leaders as undemocratic and unjustified.

Earlier, in a resolution adopted by the party office bearers, the BJP also demanded the dissolution of the state assemblies where the law and order machinery failed and the holding of fresh elections in these states. They said the BJP governments in the three states were not dissolved because of law and order, but, what they described, as the BJP's different political ideology and programs from other parties.

BJP No-Confidence Motion Considered

BK1712085892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha is now discussing a no-confidence motion against the government moved by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Initiating the debate, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee said his party regrets the happenings in Ayodhya on the 6th of this month and is prepared to accept whatever wrong it committed. He said the Center, however, cannot escape responsibility and questioned why the central forces were not moved in when the situation was going out of control. He said there is no justification for imposing president's rule in the three BJP-ruled states. He said there was no need to dissolve the assemblies even if the state governments were dismissed. Mr. Vajpayee asked why some other state governments, where more violence occurred, were not dismissed. Asserting that the problem can be solved only through goodwill and negotiations, Mr. Vajpayee alleged that the issue was kept pending for a long time. He said the country is at the crossroads today and it is not the time to blame each other. He described the current developments as a passing phase and expressed confidence that the country will emerge stronger after the crisis has blown over.

The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, charged the BJP of betraying the nation and not fulfilling the assurances given to the highest court of the country. In a forceful speech, he said whatever steps the prime minister took to salvage the country from the crisis were in the national interest and he and the Congress-I party is solidly behind him. The discussion is continuing. Earlier, the BJP members boycotted the question hour.

Rajya Sabha Adjourned

BK1712092692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the day today as the slogan shouting by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members did not allow the proceedings to go on. When the house assembled at 1100 this morning, the leader of the opposition stood up to speak, to which some Congress-I and non-BJP opposition members objected. They contended that the question hour cannot be suspended as it was the right of the members and that there has to be a motion for suspension of the same. The chairman, [Mr. K.R. Narayanan], said he just wanted to know what the leader of the opposition had to say, but the Congress-I and other non-BJP members were not prepared for this. The chairman then proceeded with the question hour amid continuous slogan shouting by the BJP members who trooped into the well of the house. The question hour went on for about 20 minutes but not much could be heard because of the continuous slogan shouting. Ultimately, the chairman adjourned the house till 1200.

As soon as the house reassembled, the BJP members walked to the well of the house and started raising slogans, demanding the resignation of the government and protesting against the dismissal of the BJP state governments. The chairman then adjourned the house for the day.

Parliament Condemns Destruction of Mosque

BK1612164392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Both houses of parliament were adjourned this afternoon after adopting a government resolution condemning the desecration and demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] at Ayodhya and making an appeal to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony. The resolution was moved by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in the Rajya Sabha and by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, in the Lok Sabha. It was greeted by thumping of desks by the Congress-I and non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] opposition members, while the BJP tried to stall the proceedings by storming into the well in both houses raising slogans against the government. The resolution strongly and unequivocally condemned the demolition of the Babri masjid by and at the instigation of forces, represented, among others, by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and the Bajrang Dal causing communal violence in the country. It said the act of vandalism was carried out not only in violation of the Supreme Court orders but also amounted to an attack on the secular foundations of the nation.

Both the houses plunged into a turmoil soon after they met this morning after a break for a week. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned thrice and the Lok Sabha once before finally adjourning for the day much ahead of scheduled. [passage omitted]

Commission Set Up To Investigate Ayodhya Incidents

BK1712030692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0345 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] A sitting judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Manmohan Singh, is to head the one-man commission [as heard] of inquiry into the incidents leading to the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya on the sixth of this month. This was officially announced in New Delhi last night. The commission has

been given wide terms of reference. These include the role played by the then Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, his cabinet colleagues, and the officials in the developments. Shortcomings in security arrangements and assault of kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] on media persons are among the other terms of references.

An official spokesman said the commission has been asked to give its report within three months. It may, however, submit interim reports to the government. The commission will have its headquarters at Lucknow.

Delhi: U.S. Warns Pakistan, Bangladesh on Ayodhya

BK1712052992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Washington has warned Pakistan and Bangladesh to refrain from interfering in India's internal affairs. According to diplomatic sources the U.S. administration has strongly criticized Islamabad and Dhaka for their inflammatory statements on the Ayodhya issue. Both the countries have been cautioned against aggravating a sensitive situation. The United States has also conveyed its support to India's efforts to restore normalcy in the country.

Diplomatic sources said in New Delhi that Washington has sent urgent messages to its envoys in the Indian subcontinent to make understand the government: [as heard] in the region about the serious view of the United States in this regard. The sources said Washington has also asked the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference not to do anything to destabilize the South Asian region and allow New Delhi to handle the situation on its own.

Minister Charges Pakistan With 'State Terrorism'

BK1612155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has lashed out at Pakistan for the violence against the minorities. In a press statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr. Bhatia termed the violence as nothing but state terrorism unleashed on the minorities. He said the moral posturing by the political and other leaders in Islamabad stands exposed through the acts of vandalism and sacrilege recorded by their own media.

Finance Ministry: Talks With IMF Satisfactory

BK1512163892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The Finance Ministry says that the ongoing talks with the IMF has made satisfactory progress. In a press release in New Delhi today, the ministry said the targets on prescribed performance criteria by the end of this month are likely to be met in all (Fields). This will enable the country to avail another $700 million by April next year under a standby loan of $2.2 million. The release added that the discussions also covered medium-term arrangements on an extended fund facility for a period of three years. These discussions are likely to be completed by Friday. The Indian team to the talks is led by the finance secretary, Mr. K.P. Geeta Krishnan. The IMF team comprises the director of Asia Department, Mr. Hubert Neiss, among others.

Iran

Pakistani Defense Minister Continues Visit

LD1612215892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] In a meeting today with Pakistani Defense Minister Ghaus Ali Shah, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the sensitive situation in the region and emphasized the need for close relations between regional countries. The president said the situation in Afghanistan and the Balkan peninsula countries as well as the presence of foreigners in the region makes cooperation between regional countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, a must to safeguard security. The president stressed the technical and expert means and strength of the two countries of Iran and Pakistan for upgrading bilateral relations, and he pointed out that sincerity and friendship of the peoples of the two countries could be a suitable basis for the deepening of this relationship. The president also pointed out the need to safeguard security in the common Iran-Pakistan border and to deal firmly with insurgents.

In this meeting Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics Torkan and the Pakistani defense minister pointed to the good results of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent trip to Pakistan and called for the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. He said the formation of the central Asian countries in the Economic Cooperation Organization was an important event.

Need To Rebuild Babri Mosque Noted

BK1712024292 International Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, who is leading a military delegation to Iran, has held talks with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on bilateral affairs and the current situation in the region. The Iranian president expressed the hope that the friendship between the people of the two countries will prove effective in increasing cooperation and will also contribute toward strengthening security on the Pakistan-Iran common border.

During the defense minister's meeting with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, both leaders demanded from India that it should take immediate steps to rebuild the Babri Mosque. They condemned the regrettable incident of the demolition of the Babri Mosque and the killing of

innocent Muslims in communal violence in India. They said that Islamic cooperation and unity is the need of the hour to focus attention on the problems faced by the Muslim world.

Economic Agreements Reached With Azerbaijan

LD1612223392 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.), Dec. 16, IRNA—The Azerbaijan Republic is to ship 5,000 tons of gas oil to Iran's Astara port (Gilan Province) over the next 20 days, as part of an agreement signed between the two countries on Tuesday. The agreement signed by Azerbaijan's Vice Chairman of the Parliament Afiyeteddin Jalilov and East Azerbaijan Governor General 'Ali 'Abdol-Alizadeh, also calls for common border markets by the end of the current calendar year (March 93). Traffic of passenger buses and transportation of goods from Azerbaijan to Nachichevan via the border post of Aslanduz was inaugurated by the two sides yesterday.

The Azerbaijani delegation which arrived here through the Jolfa border post yesterday left for Baku today.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1722 GMT on 16 December in a report datelined Astara (Gilan) states the following: "Under an agreement between Iran and Azerbaijan Republic, Iran will supply the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan with dlrs 15 million worth of essential goods over the coming months. According to Baku television, the supply will include flour (25,000 tons), petrol (15,00 tons), coal (30,000 tons), fuel oil (20,000 tons), kerosene (1,000 ton), sugar cubes (5,000 tons), vegetable oil (1,800 tons) and macaroni (1,500 tons). The Azerbaijan Republic will export various kinds of fuels to Iran in return.]

Gabon Energy Minister Visits Tehran

Meets Oil Minister, Velayati

LD1312182792 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Visiting Energy Minister of Gabon Jean Ping told Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i here today that his country looks forward to benefiting from the technical know-how of Iran's oil industry.

He said Gabon had steadily defended OPEC's decisions on production quotas for member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as well as the oil prices. Ping also observed that his visit to Tehran had been a turning point in the relations between Iran and Gabon.

In response the Iranian oil minister told the Gabonese dignitary that OPEC member states should try to stabilize the present unstable oil market by concerted action.

He declared Iran's readiness to contribute to the growth of oil industries in Gabon.

Later in the day, Ping met Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and appreciated Iran's concern for the well-being of the people of the Third World and African nations and for their freedom and dignity. He also appreciated the efforts by Iran for the independence and freedom of his nation.

Velayati commented that the march towards democracy and the diversity of political parties in Gabon were the fruits of a positive policy in the interest of the people of that country.

Meets Vice President

LD1512073992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A written message from the Gabonese president was handed to First Vice President Habibi last night. In his meeting with Habibi, the Gabonese petroleum minister also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support for African countries. Jean Ping described Tehran's policies as independent and progressive.

During the meeting, the first vice president said: If Third World countries do not strive for more extensive cooperation, the West's domination over them will be inevitable.

UNHCR Supervises Return of Afghan Refugees

LD1712121492 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Dec. 17, IRNA—The voluntary return home of Afghan refugees in Iran finally got off to a start on December 1 at the "Dogharun" border point in this northeastern province under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan under the UNHCR supervision had started a long time ago.

The UNHCR provides every Afghan family who wishes to go home through the Dogharun border point with 25 dollars cash, 50 kgs of wheat and a 12-sq.-meter rug.

Despite the efforts of UNHCR, there are still plenty of obstacles in the way of repatriation of the 2.5 million Afghans who sought refuge in Iran during their 13-year long struggle against the Soviet imposed Marxist regime.

The refugees who are scattered in all the 20 provinces of Iran, have to travel a long way to reach Dogharun for which they need provisions and the necessary fund and transportation.

The fact that the UNHCR has established only one crossing point makes the return of the refugees more difficult obliging the UN organization to take steps towards establishing new ones in other areas.

On the other hand, the refugees after returning home, face with difficulties in finding a shelter and making a living, a fact which has encouraged a number of returnees to come back to Iran.

The devastated houses, the ruined roads and farms offer a sad spectacle for the refugees making them reluctant to return home.

Moreover, the facilities provided by the UNHCR are trivial and not sufficient even for transportation fees. They have no other option except to trek on foot, a fact which makes them reluctant to go home.

The approaching winter and cold weather in the area between Dogharun and Herat in Afghanistan, has made the return more difficult as the returnees have to spend two nights outdoors.

UNHCR Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Southwest Asia Jean Marie Fakhouri, who was in Dogharun on the first day of the return, said the reconstruction of Afghanistan and provision of such facilities for the returnees are possible only after the required security is established in Afghanistan.

He said the other problem is lack of enough funds, adding that a 180-million-dollar credit has been sought from international communities but that no response has been received yet.

Noting that an overall 1.3 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan and Iran, Fakhouri said devastated Afghanistan is not capable of absorbing so many returnees and that further return of the refugees will create a new problem in the country.

The head of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Iran, who was also present at the returning ceremony at Dogharun, said several plans for revitalization of farms, reconstruction of roads and supply of healthy drinking water have been undertaken in Afghanistan by various U.N. agencies, the successful implementation of which requires an early establishment of security inside the country and provision of the necessary funds.

However, no major difficulty is expected to emerge in the near future in regards to the fact that the reconstruction of Afghanistan depends on security in the country and that the return home of the refugees is taking place at a slow process.

In spite of lack of attention from international organizations and communities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has well hosted the Afghan Muslims for 14 years, creating jobs for 800,000 of them and providing educational facilities for Afghan children.

Presently, at a time when relative peace and tranquility has returned to the country and the Afghan nation has achieved victory, the Iranian Government continues to take steps towards reconstruction of the neighbouring Muslim country to the best of its ability if the required fund is provided by the world financial resources. Moreover Tehran has paved the way for voluntary return home of the refugees and removed the legal impediments in the way of transfer of their cash and other movable properties to their country.

However, it is advisable that Afghan brothers better not wait for international bodies to extend help to them and construct homes for them. The reconstruction of Afghanistan is not possible without the powerful hands of the Afghan nation.

Now that the time has come for the Afghan brothers to return home and construct a new Afghanistan, they should be reminded that history has proved that this cannot be accomplished by other nations. As a first step, however, the UNHCR is to provide favourable grounds for their return.

Reports reaching here from Dogharun speak of an average voluntary return of some 1,000 refugees per day. In other words, the present rate means that it would takes at least several years before all the refugees return home.

Regarding the fact that lack of facilities would adversely affect the return of the refugees and that hidden hands, pursuing the U.S. arrogant policies, are preventing the world financial sources from assisting Iran in settling the refugee problem, it must be noted that the UNHCR should, away from any political ploys, continue with its activities and at least provide appropriate facilities for the Afghan refugees to return home more comfortably next spring.

Commentary Views Killing of Israeli Soldier

LD1612223892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The body of an Israeli non-commissioned officer, who was abducted in the occupied Palestine last Sunday, was discovered in the Ariha region, near Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem] yesterday. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, had assumed responsibility for the abduction of this Israeli military man, who served as the border guard in the Zionist regime's army. The Hamas officials executed him after their proposal on exchanging the non-commissioned officer with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the jailed Hamas leader, was turned down by the occupier regime's authorities. Earlier the Hamas movement had announced the Zionist regime was not serious in considering its proposal and was wasting time in a bid to secure further respite.

Meanwhile the number of the detained Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 1,400. It has also been reported that with the release of the news a number of Israeli military men and a number of radical Jews from various extremist Zionist groups converged on the residence of the non-commissioned officer. This is under the conditions when according to reports the

discovery of the Israeli military man's body has caused utmost concern and confusion among the Israeli officials. It appears that the tone of the Zionist regime's prime minister in the course of expressing regret of this incident, wherein he has requested for the continuation of the so-called Middle East peace talks, can be taken as an endeavor to depict this event as insignificant. This also strengthens the probability that the Zionist regime may exploit the incidents for attaining its hegemonistic designs and launch a negative propaganda campaign in this regard.

The recent incident is, however, closely linked to the current situation in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Over the past couple of weeks the course of events in those regions has so progressed that the Palestinians' struggle against the military men of the occupier Israeli regime has entered a new phase with the intensification of violent measures adopted by that regime against the Palestinians.

In the opinion of some political observers escalation of the Palestinians' combat with the enemy in the occupied lines since the start of the sixth year of the intifadah, the popular uprising, can be rated as a change of tactics in the struggle against the Zionist enemy. This is under the circumstances when the suppressive measures of the occupier regime in the lands under its occupation have further added to the concern about the Palestinians' condition in those regions.

There are so many breaches of human rights by the Zionists that this issue has been reflected even in the recent resolutions of the UN General Assembly expressing deep concern over the situation. However, apparently these resolutions, which have received a negative vote from the U.S. in the voting, will in practice too not go beyond the level of a mere expression of concern. Hence it seems that culmination of the Palestinians' uprising in the occupied lands and intensification of the struggle against the occupier enemy are the only response which is now being given to the Zionist military men.

Commentary on Turkish Decision on Poised Hammer

NC1612175792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] High-ranking U.S., British, and French officials met in Ankara at Turkey's invitation on 11 December to examine the question of Iraq and the extension of the Poised Hammer Force mandate. The Western officials reportedly asked Turkey to agree to extend the Hammer Force—which will expire on 31 December—for another six months.

The joint communique issued after the meeting indicated that the participants agreed that support operations for the Kurds' security and UN relief aid for them in winter must be maintained. Although the joint communique stressed that the extension of the Hammer Force mandate was subject to the approval of the Turkish Grand National Assembly [TGNA], Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel reportedly disclosed that he favors the continuing presence of the multinational force in Turkey.

Drawing attention to several government officials' opposition to the presence of the allied forces in Turkey and to people's uneasiness about the issue, several experts have said they are convinced that the Turkish officials will try to extend the Hammer Force mandate if the Western countries that took part in the meeting in Ankara officially agree to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity.

It seems the possibility of establishing a Kurdish state in northern Iraq, which will constitute a threat to Turkey's border in future, has made the Turkish officials feel uneasy. What should also be considered is the possibility that the Turkish officials have asked the Western countries for guarantees on suppressing the opposition Kurds in Turkey. Any guarantee to Turkey on that will indicate that the West maintains double standards on the Kurds.

A recent public opinion poll by the TURKISH DAILY NEWS, an English-language newspaper published in Turkey, indicated that most Turkish people and the TGNA oppose the presence of the Hammer Force units. Over 70 percent of the respondents favored the withdrawal of the Hammer Force units after their mandate expires.

Political observers believe the poll indicates that the people oppose the presence of the Hammer Force units in Turkey and are dissatisfied with the Turkish Government's pro-U.S. policy. This is due to their bitter experiences because of the decisions made to extend the Hammer Force mandate. A very clear example is the cost Turkey had to pay for Ankara's support for the coalition forces during the Gulf war. The Turkish economy has not recovered from the effects of that crisis. The deployment of the Hammer Force in Turkey caused significant reaction among the people when they realized that its activities were more comprehensive and complex than they were supposed to be. They have regarded the presence of the Hammer Force as a clear violation of their country's national sovereignty and security.

Drawing attention to the changes in world political balances, several observers have described the deployment of the Hammer Force units in the region as an effort to safeguard the U.S. presence and interests in the region in line with Washington's regional security plans. That is the only way a security zone in northern Iraq, which has been supported by the .est headed by Washington, should be viewed. We wish to conclude: Considering the activities of the Hammer Force, the Turkish people have adopted a more sensitive approach on the issue. They are fully aware of their responsibility in extending its mandate. In view of this, they expect Ankara to make a more appropriate decision than before.

Need To Counter Western 'Cultural Inroads' Seen

NC1712113492 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly in English 10 Dec 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Challenge of Facing Media Syndrome"]

[Text] The phenomenal advancement of telecommunication techniques, and the resultant cultural inroads from the West, have justifiably caused a great deal of anxiety among all the people who are genuinely concerned for the spiritual destiny of our nation.

And while the relevant government organizations have been commissioned to devise practical measures to counter the threat of the inroads of the Western mass media, a few general remarks about the type of policies which might be adopted may be in order.

To begin with, it might be pointed out that what we are really facing is the undesirable overflow of a certain social phenomenon in the West, and not a cultural aggression planned by statesmen—although that also may be part of what is happening. In other words it is quite possible that Western governments who find it hard or impossible to meet the potent ideology of Islam on its own terms, have hit upon the idea of mobilizing all resources to precipitate the debilitating influence of the contents and programs of the Western media on our nation, especially on our young generation. Thus while the Western governments have the benefit of ready-made devices created by modern technology, we seem to be adopting a defensive attitude, and are groping for means which can only delay or attenuate the corrosive effects of Western media.

It is worth repeating that what we are facing is to a large extent the syndromes of a social malaise which has faced the Western societies also with serious problems.

In devising policies which are aimed to counter the effects of the Western media syndrome, it is of utmost importance that we do not adopt a negative or inhibitive attitude under the pretext of preventing the alienation of our youth from their original culture. Once more it has to be stressed that respecting our past cultural heritage and deriving inspiration from it, is different from limiting our cultural activities within the confines set down by our past thinkers and artists.

To preserve the originality of our culture within the framework of a dynamic cultural policy requires that we allow our artists to experiment not only with new modes of expression but also with new modes of approaching existence. In other words, it has to be made clear to our young artists that even if they follow the examples or better still, the techniques they have created through their own inventiveness, for the expression of their authentic experiences. [as published] And by authentic experience we mean the capability or the innocence to embrace the dynamic experiences of life, undaunted and uninfluenced by preconceptions or alien patterns.

This means that our artists can be true to themselves and at the same time remain faithful to their cultural heritage if they can use their artistic creativity for the expression of what they have felt themselves without regard to alien influences.

In our opinion, cultural policies can be successful in helping the growth of an independent cultural life in the country only if they are based on positive attitudes along the lines summarized above.

MKO Issues Statement on Arrest of 'Terrorists'

NC1412215292 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in Paris has issued a statement and revealed details of the terrorist network of the Khomeyni regime outside the country. In this statement, it is said that an MKO spokesman in Paris has answered correspondents' questions on the arrest of the two terrorists who had murdered the great martyr of human rights, Dr. Kazem Rajavi, the representative of the Iranian resistance in the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The spokesman has revealed that the clerics' regime had activated all of its terrorist networks abroad to deal a blow to the Iranian resistance.

For this reason, the moves of the regime's terrorist forces of the Qods Corps are being watched by the mojahedin inside Iran. In this regard, some terrorist groups of the Khomeyni regime have been dispatched to Europe and a 15-member group has been sent to Germany.

The statement adds: The names of some of the regime's terrorists have been received by officials, resulting in the arrest of Mahmud Sajedian, alias Taheri, who had a false passport, and 'Ali Kamali, who had a forged passport in the name of Esfahani. These two murdered Dr. Kazem Rajavi in February 1990 and belong to the Azarakhsh terrorist group. This group is affiliated with the regime's intelligence organization, SAVAMA [Sazman-e Amniat va Ettela'at-e Melli-ye Iran], which operates outside the country under the aegis of the Qods Corps.

Dr. Kazem Rajavi's murder was executed by the Azarakhsh group on the personal instructions of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and under the directions of Sirus Naseri, the terrorist-diplomat of the regime in Geneva. Kamali and Sajedian, who are the most seasoned terrorists of the Khomeyni regime, have completed three-year training courses in terrorism in the Guards Corps. This group had been assigned to carry out such activities against the MKO in Germany and Paris.

The statement continues: Kamali and Sajedian had arrived in Geneva from Tehran for preparations and subsequent implementation of the assassination of the great martyr of human rights, Dr. Kazem Rajavi, and had government passports stamped with On Official Assignment. They are two of a group of 13 who are being prosecuted by a Swiss

investigative judge, (Roland Sherland). On Sajedian's passport, the address given is: Number 80, Karim Khan Zand Avenue, which is one of the centers of the Intelligence Ministry, the regime's SAVAK.

The statement adds: While the clerics' regime inside Iran is embroiled in the incurable social, economic, and political crisis, it is seeking to continue its sway by terrorist actions against the Iranian resistance outside Iran.

The Iranian resistance calls for the handing over of these two terrorists to the [words indistinct] court and requests that Swiss authorities close down the Khomeyni regime's embassy there, arrest and punish Sirus Naseri and all other diplomat-terrorists of the regime, and mete out justice regarding the murderers of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, the martyred mujahed.

The discovery and subsequent foiling of a terrorist plan by the Khomeyni regime in Europe has brought more humiliation to the terrorist dictatorship of the mullahs, and the regime is seeking to save face in some way.

According to a received report, the Khomeyni regime's embassy in Paris has denied this terrorist plan and has stated: The MKO is the source of the report in the French weekly L'EXPRESS. The den of espionage and terrorism of the Khomeyni regime in Paris has refuted this report, has not given any explanation on the arrest of the two terrorists of the regime, and has merely stated that their arrest was not linked to the arrest of a French businessman in Tehran.

It may be mentioned that while [words indistinct] the clerical regime has abstained from expressing any opinion in this regard.

Khamene'i on Role of Women in Islamic Society

LD1612143992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Speech by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at meeting with a group of Muslim and revolutionary women on 16 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to offer my congratulations to all of you, sisters and brothers, and to all the justice-seeking men and women all over the world on the occasion of auspicious birthday of Fatimah, peace be upon her. I also would like to welcome all of you, sisters and brothers, who have come from various centers including universities, cultural, and political centers. I also would like to welcome the honorable families of the martyrs who have come here to mark the birthday of her holiness. [passage omitted]

A Muslim woman should follow Fatimah's example. A Muslim woman should strive to acquire knowledge and wisdom. She should strive to build herself spiritually and morally. She should be in the vanguard of any jihad or struggle. She should not pay any attention to worldly goods and mundane matters. Her chastity, decency, and purity should reach a level which would automatically discourage any lecherous eyes. She should be a source of comfort to her man, her husband, and her children at home. She should be the source of life's comfort and a source of tranquillity for the family circle. [passage omitted]

The arrogant world which is full of ignorance, is wrong in thinking that a woman's worth is measured in terms of how much she makes herself up for men so that lecherous eyes can watch her, enjoy her, and admire her. What is known as women's liberation in the world and corrupt western culture today is based on exhibiting women so that men can take sexual pleasure from them and for women to become a source of enjoyment for men. They call it women's liberation. Is that women's liberation?

In the ignorant and corrupt western culture those who claim to support human rights and women's rights are, in fact, exploiters of women. [passage omitted]

When the Europeans had just created industries—in the early 19th century, when western capitalists built many factories—there was a need for a cheap, contented, and trouble-free work force. They started whispering about women's liberation in those days so that they could drag women away from the bosom of their families and use them as cheap labor in factories, to fatten their coffers, and to demean women.

Today, what is known as women's liberation in the west is the continuation of the same tale and the same adventure. Therefore, the injustice committed against women in western culture, and the misinterpretation of women in western culture and literature is unprecedented in history. In the past, women were subjected to oppression everywhere, but this general and all-round and all-embracing injustice is particular to recent times and stems from western culture. They have put forward women as playthings for men and called it women's liberation while in fact it is the freedom of licentious men to enjoy women, and not women's freedom.

It was not confined to workplaces, industrial activities, and such. They oppressed women in their arts and literature. [passage omitted]

I say to women, young women, Muslim women, housewives: Do not go after the consumerist propaganda which, like a leech, the west has brought into the world including the developing countries such as ours. [passage omitted]

I have repeatedly said to preachers and missionaries that as far as the question of women is concerned, it is not up to us to defend our position; it is, rather the decadent western culture which has to defend itself. What we offer women is something which no thinking and decent person can deny is not good for women. We invite women to be modest, chaste, maintain their hejab, to refrain from limitless integration between men and women, to preserve human generosity, not to wear

make-up in front of male strangers so that they may take pleasure in looking at her. Is this bad? This is what gives Muslim women their dignity; this is what gives women dignity. Those who encourage women to wear make-up in such a way as to attract the attention of men in public places, who thus satisfy their carnal desires by looking at them, it is they who have to defend what they are doing and explain why they have pulled women down to this extent and are denigrating her. They are the ones who should be replying to this.

In our culture, there are people with integrity. In the West too, people with integrity approve of this and behave accordingly. There, too, women who are virtuous, chaste, and dignified and who know their own worth are not prepared to turn themselves into objects of satisfaction for the carnal desires and lecherous eyes of male strangers. This decadent Western culture has a lot of these kinds of women.

One of the things they talk about is the question of human rights. Is the West really defending human rights? The leading exponents of human rights are silent when the rights of over one billion Muslims are being undermined—they even encourage this. You see how all the apparatus of the arrogant powers and their writers, servants, mercenaries, and lackeys have lined up to defend a useless person who placed in full view of the public that book called "The Satanic Verses"—that apostate and heretic Salman Rushdie.

Is this defending human rights? How is it that they do not brag about human rights when the rights of 200 million Indian Muslims are undermined and their place of worship destroyed by a group of ignorant extremists incited by the enemies of Islam and Muslims? Why don't they talk about human rights when millions of people are being treated most cruelly and are being massacred, their children are dying, their women are being destroyed, their sick are being killed. If they really care about human rights why do they go dumb in these instances—or at most limit themselves merely to words.

Why is it that in Palestine, where a nation has been made homeless and their land confiscated, the people as well as their supporters in Lebanon—even camps in Lebanon—are being bombarded? Why do those who support human rights keep silent here? Are they really supporters of human rights? Either they are lying and deceiving or human rights in the Western cultural style is the opposite of human rights. It is the right of the oppressors of the human ranks. These human rights are not human rights.

We support human rights. Islam supports the rights of humans. No school has valued the nobility of humans more than Islam. [audience chants in support] One of Islam's principles which has always been put forward in the introduction and explanation of Islam is respect for humans. We do not sit waiting for the Westerners to come and teach us or to advise us on respecting the rights of humans. We are the first to support the rights of humans. But the rights of humans are defensible only in light of Islam and will only then be counted as the rights of humans.

It is Islam which through its laws—all forms of law, be it judicial or criminal or civil or public or political—has defended rights of humans, not that which is in their position, not that which in deception they have called human rights. This is not the rights of humans.

We support human rights and we shall pursue human rights. We have nothing to do with such and such a commission of the United Nations or such and such an international committee. We support the rights of humans because of Islamic instructions, because it is fundamental to Islam. [audience chants in support]

However, the cause that the Westerners champion is, in our view, a deception and a lie—whether it is their support for the rights of women or their support for human rights. The world's arrogant—the oppressors of the world, the plunderers of humanity, those who have no regard for the rights of the nations, those who destroy the interests of weak nations, and those who occupy the territories of weak countries—have today taken up the banner of support for the rights of women and human rights. It is obvious that the Muslim nations will ignore them.

What is important for Muslim women—especially young women, the girl students and the ladies occupied with scientific, political, and social activities—is to continue the Islamic ways with utmost care and dedication. [audience chants in support]

The Islamic and revolutionary upbringing of Muslim women is a source of pride for the Islamic Republic. We take pride in our Muslim women and their achievements. [passage omitted] That way, we take pride in the Islamic tenets which are able, in our age, to produce constructive results. In a world in which the current of wrong and perverted thoughts is upon us from all quarters, the Muslim woman can prove herself with pride and courage. That is a blessing offered by Islam.

Here, the university ground is very important. There, women students and professors must try to propagate the same Islamic morale and culture. You should not allow anybody, if such persons exist, to show disrespect to the Islamic dress code or to Muslim girl students. Do not let them propagate their corrupt thoughts. The university ground must be an Islamic environment in which the Islamic human being is brought up—the kind of Islamic women whose model is Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra. That would be of great importance to the country's future. [passage omitted]

Industries Minister on Domestic Production

NC1712095392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] As you may have heard on the news on Tuesday [15 December], the budget for 1372 [year beginning 21 March

1993] was presented to the Majles. Perhaps the greatest difference between this and previous budgets is that it has been compiled on the basis of a single rate of foreign exchange. We have heard several reports on this from our colleague Ja'fari in various newscasts, especially in the morning casts. This week he has prepared a report on the impacts of the single parity rate of foreign exchange on industries. What can basically be foreseen as far as the single parity rate of foreign exchange is concerned is the long-term positive impacts that it will have, which will, by bringing about the necessary changes, pave the way for reforming the country's industrial infrastructure. But this can only be fulfilled if a basic solution is also thought of for problems. Our colleague reports that this work deals largely with this issue.

[Begin recording] [Ja'fari] As my colleague Hayati has said, the plan to introduce a single parity rate of foreign exchange will be the source of important impacts on domestic production, namely on the industrial sector. To prevent or mitigate any harm caused by this plan to the industrial sector, calculated steps and programs will be inevitable.

In an interview, Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh described the implementation of the plan in the long run as an extremely positive element and detailed the ground on which the country's domestic industries can flourish. He also described this plan as a means to reform the country's industrial infrastructure. As far as the plan's short-term problems are concerned, the industries minister believes:

[Ne'matzadeh] The biggest problem, which we are seeing even today—because much of our industrial product is based on the floating rate of foreign exchange—is the shortage of cash flow in production units that cannot gain access to the necessary cash with which to buy their raw materials and goods at the floating rate. When prices rise demand decreases. The factory is at a crossroads with the consumer lacking purchasing power and itself lacking the power to purchase raw materials. We think the country's banking system should help the industries.

In other countries, to protect a series of infrastructural industries, the government uses its own general resources and extends supervised credits through the banking system, especially in the field of investment. If we want to invest in a cement plant on the basis of the floating rate of foreign exchange, a great deal of cash will be needed and will be beyond the reach of an investor from the private sector. So the government should extend banking facilities by using the money it gets from the increase in the price of foreign exchange, which it will be selling at floating prices and which will bring in more income for the government, and it should extend controlled long-term and low-interest credits to our basic industries. Otherwise, investment, especially in basic industries that the government wants to see grow, will be harmed.

[Ja'fari] Another point the industries minister stated on protecting domestic industries was control of imports, saying that by amending customs tariffs and by limiting foreign goods, the government should prepare favorable ground for the growth of the country's domestic products. The industries minister believes the country's customs tariffs—calculated on the basis of 70 rials per dollar—practically render customs tariffs ineffective. Of the imports that are not controlled by the government, he said:

[Ne'matzadeh] The illegal imports from ports that have been named as free ports and from which many products enter the country via travelers or other means should also be considered. For example, many commercial goods are entering through this channel and even the minimumal customs tariffs that the government should rightly receive are not paid. Domestic products cannot compete with cheap products for which custom tariffs are not paid—and that when domestic production needs a heavy cashflow.

[Ja'fari] Commenting on attention to the deprived areas, Ne'matzadeh referred to the need for industrial growth in the poorer areas and called for the need to ensure some basic expenditure to create industries in these areas.

In view of the government's inclination toward domestic production and especially after the implementation of the plan for a single parity rate of foreign exchange to reform and strengthen the country's economic structures, the necessary guidelines, regulations, and facilities for the growth of the country's domestic production must be provided. [end recording]

Importance of Population Control Noted

NC1712120592 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Dec 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Reversing Population Growth Rate"]

[Text] The vital importance of population control is now recognized by the Islamic Republic of Iran from the highest officials down to the rank and file. We are told that the government efforts in this area has been successful, and the previous madly growing birthrate is now reduced by one percent or so. But despite the success, Iran's population growth rate is double the world's average, and it has been projected that at the present slowed growth rate the country's population would reach some 100 million in a span of a little more than a decade.

That means we are yet to see the ravages and hardships that population explosion can cause in Iran, and that the discussion of population control, family planning and modernizing the census system is never too repetitious or boring, since the menace is still looming as big as ever. That means the government should continue its campaign until the average Iranian in cities and in rural areas understands that a large family will not but bring despair, misery, indignity, lower standard of living and deprivation.

The method of population control has varied from one country to another depending on the gravity of the situation. On one side of this control spectrum is China, where family size is dictated and its violation is punishable by withdrawal of some of the government's free facilities. If the Iranian government does not want to apply downright coercion in this respect, it should at least intensify the message of its campaign by creating a negative image of larger than prescribed family sizes as being parasitic, a burden on society and culturally backward so that parents who indulge in ballooning the size of their families irresponsibly would feel pressure around them.

The Islamic Republic should face population explosion in Iran as the moral equivalent of war. Let's face it, population growth such as we have in Iran, if not more destructive to the country than war, would certainly not be any less so. The difference is that the destructive impact of a war is more immediate and observable. In fact, the government's efforts to advance the various sectors of the economy such as the agriculture, education, health care, foreign trade, ... [as published] will be an exercise in futility and will not reach the targeted people with the population growth rate as it is now. Unless the government regards population growth as one of the important, if not the most important, tasks facing it requiring emergency mobilization of its means, the problem will continue to get worse.

The average responsible and educated Iranian who happens to be grappling with housing, health, education, entertainment, and a host of other problems now in the aftermath of the war, and who is in general worried about his own future and that of his family during next year, next decade, or next century has every reason to be so. And, yes, problems of all kinds will get worse and the future of his family will be even more bleak in the absence of a concerted population control policy despite all the efforts by the government to do away with them and promises by it to the contrary. Because advances made by the government in the form of increased food production, improved industrial productivity, larger available educational space, better health care system among others, will be instantly devoured upon materialization by larger and inevitably poorer and more illiterate population. [Sentence as published]

A United Nations Population Fund seminar scheduled to take place in July 1993 is a positive step in connection to this grave Iranian problem. Iran needs all the conferences and seminars it can get in population control and its planning, provided that the recommendations made by these gatherings are incorporated into the government's programs. In general, the United Nations and its specialized agencies are very well situated to help Iran and countries like it in their efforts. The concerned U.N. agencies know their jobs well, with a proven record of success in many countries.

It is the responsibility of every Iranian to take the problem of population growth personally and seriously and do his best to stop or reverse this menace. That can take the form of an active role in one that begins with his or her family and extends into the society by having those near informed and guided. So that in one way or another all of us will have done our share of the responsibility toward this menace. There is no doubt that population growth rate as it is in Iran should stop, and stop now, or else its consequences will overwhelm everyone, man or woman, young or old, and rich or poor.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Not To Resign After Court Ruling

BK1612150892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 16 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala will not bow to pressure and resign after a Supreme Court ruling went against him, sources said Wednesday.

"The Prime Minister is not in a mood to step down," they said despite the Supreme Court ruling Tuesday that a 1991 agreement between Nepal and India on the 120-megawatt Tanakpur hydro-electric project was by definition a treaty and not an understanding and therefore needed the endorsement of parliament.

The opposition Nepal Communist Party (NCP - United Marxist and Leninist) and other leftist parties accused Koirala of undermining the constitution by unilaterally signing a treaty without parliament's approval.

The Koirala government had maintained the agreement with India was in the form of an understanding and it was therefore unnecessary to consult the parliament.

The NCP held a protest march in Kathmandu Wednesday demanding the resignation of Koirala, witnesses said, while the NCP general secretary and member of parliament Madan Bhandari warned that his party would continue to launch protest rallies until Koirala stepped down from the his post.

However the sources close to the prime minister said Koirala had no intention of stepping down, but was "thinking of calling for the mid-term polls in order to get a two-thirds majority of his own men in the house of representatives."

The Koirala government only holds 110 seats in the 205-member house.

In an official communique the government said it would abide by the Supreme Court verdict to table the Tanakpur accord and relevant documents with its assessment in the next session of the parliament.

"The Koirala government would present the Tanakpur accord before the forthcoming session of the parliament for ratification in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court," it said.

"The Koirala government feels that the verdict given by the Supreme Court on matters relating to water resources in connection with the treaties, agreements and understandings reached during the prime minister's visit to India last December has attached importance to the role of the parliament under multi-party democracy," the statement added.

India began construction of the Tanakpur project, located on the Indo-Nepalese border, in 1986.

During a visit to India in 1991, Koirala agreed to allow the construction to spread into Nepalese territory in return for an annual supply of two megawatts of electricity and an allowance of water for irrigation free of charge.

Protest at U.S. Embassy; Fujimori Effigy Burned

BK1012142892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 10 (AFP)—A group of 200 pro-Maoist and Marxist youth activists held an anti-American demonstration here Thursday, witnesses said.

The demonstrators started from Bhotahity, the main hub of Kathmandu and later assembled near the U.S. Embassy and burnt Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in effigy branding him an "American Imperialist stooge."

The demonstrators shouted slogans like "Yankees go home" and "Do not interfere in Peru."

Before setting fire to the effigy, the activists handed over a memorandum in which they protested alleged U.S. intervention in Peru and demanded the immediate release of Maoist Shining Path guerilla leader Abemal Guzman Gonzalo, who was arrested earlier this year and is on trial for his life.

Bhutanese Refugee Situation Termed 'Serious'

BK0912160792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] KATHMANDU, Dec 9 (AFP)—If the influx of Bhutanese refugees into Nepal is not stemmed, food shortages and the threat of epidemics could increase dramatically, Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa said here Wednesday.

In a statement issued a day after he took local diplomats to visit refugee camps in southern Nepal, Deupa said he hoped planned talks between Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuck on the refugee issue would produce concrete results.

Otherwise, "Nepal will have no other option but to raise the issue internationally," he said.

Koirala was to have had talks with the Bhutanese king during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Dhaka this weekend.

However, the summit has now been postponed until January in the wake of the religious violence that swept the sub continent after Hindu fanatics razed a mosque in northern India on Sunday.

Deupa said there were currently 90,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, 72,000 of whom were housed in camps in Jhapa district, southeast of Kathmandu.

The minister was accompanied on his visit to the camps Tuesday by the U.S., German, Japanese and Thai ambassadors to Nepal and the charge d'affairs of France, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

"If the influx of Bhutanese refugees remains constant, social and economic problems like scarcity of food, population havoc, prostitution, vandalism, civic disorder and epidemics, could seriously effect public life," Deupa said, adding that he hoped the refugees would be able to return home safely.

UNHCR [United Nations High Commision on Refugees] representative Tahir Ali, who also visited the camps, said the UNHCR was helping the Bhutanese refugees "on humanitarian grounds without the prejudice of the question of their citizenship.

Investment Forum Concludes; 115 Projects Signed

BK0512122492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 5 (AFP)—The five-day Nepal Investment Forum (NIF) concluded here after signing 115 joint venture projects between foreign investors and local firms worth 650 million U.S. dollars, the industry and labour minister said Saturday.

Ramkrishna Tamrakar said the projects related to the tourist industry, mushroom farming, the soyabean and mineral water industries, as well as cement, paper and pulp, and hydro-electric power projects.

The largest share, 28 projects worth 223.04 million dollars, went to Indian industrialists, he said.

The second largest share, 25 projects, went to Chinese entrepreneurs, including eight hydro-electric power projects.

Other investers came from Germany, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, Austria, Italy and Hong Kong, he said.

"We had expected about 25 percent of foreign investors-...but in fact altogether over 35 percent have concluded agreements," he said.

"The present Nepali Congress government has adopted a long term sustainable industrial policy reform, seeking

an industrial base with direct and effective participation of the private sectors," he said.

"We have now created a clear and favourable environment for everyone including foreign investors with liberal open economic policy framework through mobilization of internal and external capitals," Tamrakar said.

Asked how the government of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala proposed to handle Taiwan investors in view of Nepal's non-recognition of Taiwan, Tamrakar said, "the Taiwanese industrialists have come for the joint industrial venture in Nepal in an individual capacity and therefore there will be no problem for the Koirala government."

However critics of the government have said that though foreign entrepreneurs have signed many projects, none of them have mobilized capital from their respective countries.

They stressed that the government has scarce funds available after launching a highly ambitious 170 billion rupee (4.018 billion dollar) eighth five-year-plan.

Germany Pledges Technical, Economic Grants

BK1412000892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1810 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 13 (AFP)—Germany pledged 105.85 million U.S. dollars in grants for technical and economic development projects in Nepal after a two-day meeting that ended here Sunday.

Germany has agreed to grant 81.6 million dollars as economic assistance and additional 24.25 million dollars for technical grants for the current fiscal year ending in mid July, a Nepalese official said.

The German Government had already provided 77.5 million dollars this year out of the total 159.1 million dollars in grant assistance agreed for Nepal's proposed hydroelectric power project, he said.

Pakistan

Sharif Comments on Ties With Japan, U.S.

BK1612113292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said he is earnestly looking forward to hold useful talks with the prime minister of Japan on international, regional and bilateral matters. He said this in a statement on arrival in Tokyo this afternoon on a four-day official visit at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Miyazawa. The prime minister said he will also exchange views with representatives of Japanese private sector to build a more meaningful economic relationship between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in an interview to ASIAWEEK in Hong Kong today, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed his government's readiness for developing constructive and fruitful relationship with the United States without compromising on Pakistan's sovereignty and independence. The prime minister dwelt at length on Pakistan-India relations, Kashmir issue, the desecration of the Babri Masjid [mosque], nuclear issue, economic reforms of his government and dialogue with the opposition. He said the demolition of Babri Masjid by the Hindu fanatics fully exposed India's position to the world. Referring to the Kashmir issue, he said Pakistan was providing political, moral, and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir in their indigenous struggle for right of self- determination.

Foreign Secretary on Terrorism, U.S. Ties

BK1612120992 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 15—"The American laws to declare a country as terrorist state cannot be applied to Pakistan and if Washington puts Islamabad on the list of terrorist states it could be a violation of the US laws", observed Shaharyar Khan; Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, while talking to The Muslim here on Tuesday. Any US decision to declare Pakistan a terrorist state would be a disaster for the bilateral relations between the two countries, he added.

The Foreign Secretary said the Americans were known for their strict adherence to their laws. Pakistan rightly expect that Washington would not commit a mistake in this case also since "we had been working very closely with each other in various fields".

Shaharyar Khan said Pakistan had offered sufficient explanation to the Americans regarding the allegation about terrorism. "Pakistan has never supported terrorism. The allegations lavelled by the Indians in this regard were totally baseless, he said.

Pakistan is a democratic country. The US State Department had certain reservations about our support to the Kashmiri people struggling to free themselves from the Indian yoke. He said Pakistan had made it clear to Washington that its support to the Kashmiri people was based on principles. We have never provided them arms and ammunition, but had only extended them moral and political support which we would continue to extend in future as well.

Mr Shaharyar said Islamabad had offered Washington to send its observers to probe its allegations. The Americans however, he said, had not accepted Pakistan's offer and they were of the view that they have full information about the questionable activities on our part.

He said Pakistan had established camps for refugees, who had crossed over to this side of the Line of Control (LoC), out these camps were for refugees, who had been

subjected to tortures, by the Indian forces. "These camps are open and can be inspected by anybody at any time", he said.

The Foreign Secretary said these oppressed people had been demanding weapons and training but Pakistan had not obliged them. As far as the arms and ammunition was concerned, the whole region had become an arms bazaar after the Afghan war.

Id Khan said it were the Indians who were sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan, especially in Sindh. Pakistan, he said, had provided solid proof regarding Indian direct involvement in its domestic affairs. It was India, he said, which should be declared a terrorist state.

The Foreign Secretary was hopeful that the matter would be resolved through talks. He expressed the hope that Washington would certainly not like to see its traditional friend "in difficulties".

Replying to another question, Shaharyar Khan said, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Begum Sayeda Abida Hussain had been doing a good job in Washington. She was held on a personal visit and the Foreign Office would avail the opportunity to have discussions with her on the matter on next Saturday.

Indian Personnel Declared *Persona Non Grata*

BK1712102992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The government of Pakistan has declared three personnel of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad and the Indian Consulate General in Karachi as persona non grata for their activities in Pakistan which were incompatible with their responsibilities and their mission. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that these personnel are: Mr. (R.L. Khurana), Mr. (O.P. Sharma) and Mr. (Asis Sahni).

Protest Lodged With India on Killing of Fishermen

BK1712112092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with India over the killing of a Pakistani fisherman by a helicopter of the Indian Coast Guard on Sunday [13 December]. The protest was conveyed to the Indian deputy high commissioner by the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning. The Indian helicopter opened fire without any prior warning, killing Mohammad and injuring another Pakistani fisherman. Pakistan expressed its concern that instead of normal international practice of arresting the fishing vessel, the helicopter resorted to unprovoked and indiscriminate firing resulting in the loss of an innocent life. The Indian Government has been asked to ensure that such incidents should not occur in future.